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SIR DAVID FEARS A NATURAL DISASTER

POPULATION control is the greatest challenge facing the planet, Sir David Attenborough has told Kent on Sunday.

EXCLUSIVE

By JENNA PUDELEK

The acclaimed broadcaster and naturalist said individuals faced a choice between either lowering the birth rate or letting nature exert her power through increased natural disasters such as famines.

"How do we deal with it? Well, you needn't do anything yourself and nature will deal with it. And she will do it," he warned.

Sir David said since 1952, when he began his career at the BBC making natural history films, there were three times as many people on the Earth and that "cannot go on".

As part of the solution he discussed the extreme measure of asking families to have only one child.

Nature had already begun to address the pressure overpopulation was putting on the environment, Sir David said.

Famines had already increased and mass starvation would be a continuing feature in the world unless the population was controlled, he said.

• SEE INSIDE FOR FULL INTERVIEW

POPULATION CONTROL

'There are three times more people living on Earth as there were when I started making TV programmes. That can't go on'

NATURE FIGHTS BACK

'The planet is only so big and only a finite amount of people can live on it. How do we deal with it? Nature will deal with it'

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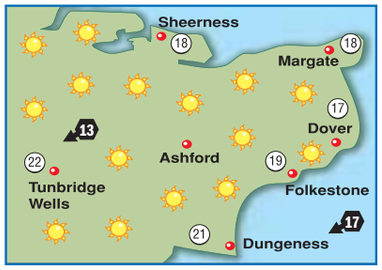
Kent today



TODAY: A fine day is in prospect with almost unbroken sunshine. Moderate to fresh northeasterly winds. Max temp 21-24C (70-75F).

TONIGHT: It will stay dry with largely clear skies. The moderate northeasterly wind will persist. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	19	66	London	sun	22	72
Belfast	sun	24	75	Liverpool	sun	24	75
Birmingham	fair	20	68	Manchester	sun	23	73
B'mouth	sun	22	72	Newcastle	sun	20	68
Bristol	sun	18	64	Norwich	sun	20	68
Cardiff	sun	22	72	Oxford	fair	23	73
Cork	fair	19	66	Southsea	sun	22	72
Edinburgh	fair	21	70	S'hampton	sun	22	72
Glasgow	fair	21	70	Southport	sun	23	73
Isle of Man	sun	19	66	Swansea	fair	22	72
Leeds	sun	21	70	Torquay	sun	19	66

Sun & moon

Sunrise	4.44am	Sunset	9.03pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	1.05pm	Moonset	1.24am	9.03pm to 4.43am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	05.22	5.9	17.42	6.0	06.30	5.7	18.48	5.9
Margate	06.17	4.3	18.25	4.2	07.24	4.2	19.35	4.1
St Mary's	11.11	4.7	23.39	4.9	–	–	12.18	4.6

Week ahead

monday Sunny. Dry. max 23C min 10C

tuesday Sunny spells. max 22C min 9C

wednesday A few showers. max 17C min 8C

thursday A bright day. max 16C min 8C

friday Bright at times. max 17C min 9C

saturday Isolated showers. max 18C min 9C

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Drunken murderer is behind bars for stabbing student

We'll be suffering a life sentence too, say family

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE family of a student stabbed to death for defending his friend in an argument say they will never be able to forgive his killer.

Ian Deadman, 46, from Margate, was jailed for life on Friday for the murder of 25-year-old Tommy Balsom, who was attacked in the hallway outside Deadman's flat on September 8 last year.

Father-of-two Mr Balsom had been fighting with Deadman's friend at the time he was murdered.

In a statement issued following the sentencing at Maidstone Crown Court, his family told how their lives had been "shattered".

It read: "We cannot and will never forgive the person responsible for the senseless and violent way Tommy died and for taking away a part of our family that was not his to take.

"But we take comfort in knowing he was standing up for what he believed was right, as we had taught him.

"We will be serving a life sentence as we have to live without Tommy every day.

"We cannot express our feelings to all of our family and friends who have supported us, cried with us and kept us going."

SENTENCED: Ian Deadman will not be eligible for parole for at least 15 years

Mr Balsom had been visiting his friend Jordan Best on the day of the murder, and was inside his flat when Deadman came to the door "in an angry state".

The court heard how the two neighbours did not always get on, and it was not long before a scuffle ensued between Mr Best, Mr Balsom and Deadman's friend James Carter. It was then that Deadman knifed Mr Balsom in the neck and chest before dialling 999.

Chief Insp Terry Chuter said: "What Tommy Balsom walked into that day was bubbling tension between neighbours – fuelled by alcohol and drugs – that spilled over into violence in the landing between the properties.

"By their own admission, Tommy's family have said he had his troubles. But he did not deserve this.

"Ian Deadman has always denied killing Tommy, but he has now been convicted for a display of violence that in his world he may feel is acceptable behaviour, but in our world is not. The sentence reflects that."

Sentencing Deadman, who will not be eligible for parole for at least 15 years. Judge Andrew Patience described the incident as "yet another wanton and senseless killing, brought about by a knife and someone in drink". He added that the effect on Mr Balsom's family had been "devastating and catastrophic".

Judge Patience also made mention of Mr Balsom's two children, one of whom now requires counselling.

Have you seen hero's memorial?

THE hunt is on for a memorial to a forgotten hero which is probably gracing a rockery in the back garden of a home.

Captain Louis Nolan was killed at the beginning of the Charge of the Light Brigade when he tried to stop cavalrymen charging the wrong guns in the Crimea 155 years ago.

His body was dumped into an unmarked battlefield grave but later fellow officers put up a two-foot memorial in Holy Trinity Church in Maidstone. This vanished when the church was decommissioned.

The church is now a home for disadvantaged youngsters but in its heyday Captain Nolan and his fellow cavalry officers from the nearby barracks used to worship there.

Sue Moore, manager of Stonham Home which now occupies the church, was aware of Captain Nolan's story but wonders what happened to the memorial during the conversion in 1997.

She said: "Whoever converted the church was unaware of Captain Nolan's significance.

"The memorial was taken away with building rubble. A couple of large, ornate columns were taken at the same time."

Ms Moore has featured the story of Captain Nolan in a special display in the foyer.

Interest in the cavalryman has been sparked with the publication of a biography Messenger of Death by David Butters, as our sister paper Yourmaidstone has previously reported, which highlights the prejudice Nolan faced because he was the grandson of a trooper and an expert in his field.

During the early Victorian period officers bought their commissions and didn't bother to study current military thinking.

Nolan was an aide de camp to Lord Raglan, Commander in Chief of the British Forces charged with delivering orders to the frontline.

Raglan saw British guns being taken by the Russians and wanted them retrieved.

Nolan delivered his orders to Lord Cardigan who ordered the brigade to charge, but they were heading towards the wrong guns.

Muddle-headed Cardigan was leading his 600 men to certain death. Nolan noticed and it's believed he was trying to head the charge off when he was killed by a Russian shell.

• ***Messenger of Death is published by Pen and Sword Books.***

Polytunnel plans are knocked out

FORMER boxing champ Barry McGuigan says he is elated after councillors unanimously rejected plans for acres of polytunnels outside his 17th century home, ***writes Emily Hall***.

The former world featherweight champion and celebrity TV star said he would like to thank each member of Swale council's planning committee personally for overturning the "monstrous" idea on Thursday night.

Although Mr McGuigan, 49, had filming commitments in Ireland and couldn't make the planning meeting personally, he has been among villagers fighting against fruit grower S&A's proposals for 8,000 polytunnels on land off the A299 Thanet Way at Hernehill, Faversham.

The company, which farms out of Hernehill Nurseries, wanted 8,000 plastic tunnels to grow luxury strawberries, possibly for export.

WIN: Barry McGuigan is thrilled by the success of his fight against the polytunnels

Mr McGuigan, who won Hell's Kitchen in 2007, said: "Thank God for Swale Borough Council. I would like to thank each member of the planning committee personally.

"I'm thrilled they chucked the plans out the first time and very swiftly again the second time. It shows they have real integrity.

"They know we just can't have the countryside in a sheet of plastic. There's a world shortage of grain and this land can be used in better ways. This would have been an ecological and environmental disaster."

Mr McGuigan lives in a Grade II-listed estate close to where the polytunnels would have been. He and a handful of neighbours originally fought the proposals last summer, which were thrown out by planners in August.

However last week Mr McGuigan was left shocked after realising S&A's idea had reared its head again and the threat of 27 hectares of plastic was back in the ring.

But at the planning committee meeting, the second application failed to find favour with members, who claimed it would affect wildlife and not be easy enough on the eye.

It now remains to be seen whether the plan has been knocked out once and for all.

Jason Davies-Baker, a spokesman for S&A, said the company was "very disappointed".

"It's yet to be decided whether we'll try again, but we're not ruling anything out," he added.

Future film-makers Cannes be a success

AMBITIOUS movie-makers from Kent were among hundreds eager to impress at last week's Cannes Film Festival.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

As well as offering a sneak peek at some of the flicks likely to succeed at the box office, the prestigious annual event also gives up-and-coming directors and producers the chance to sell their ideas to industry executives.

One hopeful at the festival was 37-year-old Maidstone resident Derek Boyes, who met with several potential investors to promote the script for his first feature film Blackout.

Boyes said he was confident the gritty thriller, which is about a man with amnesia who wakes up next to a dead body in the middle of the woods, would prove popular.

He said: "I was in Cannes for four days, during which time I had about 10 meetings with various people.

"Everyone really liked the script, although quite a few suggested changes so I've started work on a final draft now. Hopefully, after that I'll start to receive some firm offers."

Another newcomer hoping to make his mark at the festival was former actor Ben Pullen, from Faversham, who is now the co-owner of Sentinel Entertainment.

His film Red Tide – about a mute assassin who wants to escape a life of crime – has also yet to be filmed, although respected Irish actor Ray Stevenson has signed up.

Pullen said: "I had meetings with a number of potential finance groups, distributors and other movie executives, and Cannes is the perfect environment for that because it gets everybody together in one place.

"Lots of positives came out of the festival but the most important thing for me was making these connections."

Both directors received £300 bursaries to travel to Cannes from Screen South, an organisation that supports film and media in the South East.

Also showcased at the festival was the promising British comedy The Shouting Men, which features the exploits of a group of Gillingham FC supporters who travel to watch their team play Newcastle United in the FA Cup. The flick was shot in and around the Medway Towns late last year.

Meanwhile, there was further good news for Oscar-winning director Andrea Arnold as her latest film, the family drama Fish Tank, won the festival's Prix du Jury award.

It was the second time the Dartford-born talent had picked up the prize, having found previous success back in 2006 with the CCTV-based thriller Red Road.

Upon accepting the award, she said: "It's a great honour to have a film screened here. It gives it a great start in life."

Arnold, who played the part of Dawn Lodge in the 1980s children's television show No. 73, rose to worldwide prominence when she won an Oscar in 2004 for the live-action short film Wasp.

BIG SCREEN: Oscar-winner Andrea Arnold won the Prix du Jury, and Derek Boyes, left, has been promoting his film, Blackout

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Encouraging our next generation

THE late leader of Kent County Council is leaving a legacy that could help generations of new leaders emerge.

An exchange programme is being set up in the name of Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart. And it is set to reach around the world thanks to potential backing from KCC and Essex County Council.

The international programme is aptly called the Bruce-Lockhart Leadership Programme after the former Tory KCC leader, who was also the Local Government Association chairman.

Every year, the programme will offer bursaries to senior council members or officers to fund study tours in the USA and Europe.

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UN steps in to reduce numbers of refugees

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ENGLAND, including Kent, has taken in over 90 per cent of all migrants who regularly arrive through our ports.

Now the UN has stepped in to try and reduce the numbers.

New parliamentary figures show that between 1991 and 2007, some 2.34 million people arrived in the UK, with the vast majority settling in England rather than any of the other British Isles.

Kent MPs have welcomed a decision by the United Nations Refugee Agency to cut the number of illegal immigrants trying to cross the English Channel.

It is setting up an office in Calais, where thousands of migrants living rough in what's known as The Jungle, hoping to jump a ride on a lorry or train into Kent.

But now the UN wants to convince the ragtag army that Britain is not the golden mecca that are expecting.

Camps

UNHCR spokesman Francisco Galindo said they will now attempt to convince them to request asylum in France instead.

Tory MP Damian Green and Labour's Gwyn Prosser welcomed the scheme.

There are an estimated 2,000 migrants in makeshift camps in Calais at any given time.

The UNHCR said migrants sometimes stayed at the camps for months before stowing away on a truck or ferry.

There are French plans to bulldoze The Jungle by the end of this year and replace it with a temporary centre offering migrants food and shelter.

Mr Galindo, who was on a fact-finding tour of the town on Thursday, said it was a complex situation.

He said: "We are not saying that the only solution to the problem is through asylum.

"It is seen as a French problem, but it really is a regional and European problem."

Shadow immigration spokesman Mr Green, MP for Ashford, said the UNHCR move was a "gesture worth making".

TAKING THE BRUNT: Thousands wait in France while trying to get into Britain

"But I remain to be convinced as to how effective it will be," he said.

"It is only three people... and these (migrants) will have travelled, in many cases, halfway across the world."

Dover MP Mr Prosser said the fact the UN was independent of the French and British governments gave it credibility.

"I hope they will be able to dissuade those who think there is a land of milk and honey over here that things are not like that," he said.

And something does need to be done about the constant flow of people, which is putting pressure on schools, hospitals and most other services.

According to the Office for National Statistics, England's population will rise by 16 million in the next 15 years, mainly fuelled by immigration.

A statement from the cross-party Balanced Migration group, which is jointly chaired by Labour's Frank Field and Conservative Nicholas Soames, said: "The political establishment is in denial on immigration even though it is of concern to nearly 80 per cent of the population."

It's claimed there are around 2,000 refugees in The Jungle, mainly Iraqi, Afghan, Somali and Kurdish.

The Home Office said the number of refugees caught sneaking into Britain from Calais fell from 10,000 five years ago to 1,500 last year, a fall of about 88 per cent.

Alienated

But last year the House of Lords' economic affairs committee concluded record levels of immigration had brought no economic benefit to the country. It said in some areas, existing workers have been displaced and alienated.

Just what this costs the country is regularly debated.

The Home Office claims through tax and spending, immigrants contribute £2.5 billion more in taxes than they cost in public services.

But Professor Robert Rowthorn of Cambridge University said it all depends on how this is calculated and he claimed once you add in the full costs of those services to which they are entitled like NHS treatment, schooling, and welfare along others, and immigration incurs a £5.6bn loss to the UK.

Crash kills driver

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following a fatal crash in Ashford Road near Canterbury.

The accident happened just before 10.30pm on Wednesday at Thanington Without. A blue Maestro City van had collided head on with a white Daf HGV lorry.

The Maestro driver, a 33-year-old local woman, was pronounced dead at the scene.

She has not yet been identified.

The lorry driver, a 27-year-old man, was taken to hospital with non-life threatening chest injuries.

Bomb made safe

BOMB experts removed a suspected World War Two bomb from a residential area of Gillingham on Friday.

The area was cordoned off and residents evacuated while the device was removed and made safe by the Army bomb disposal team.

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Drugs gang's 40-year term

POLICE are celebrating this weekend after one of their biggest drugs busts ever which saw 19 people jailed.

The dealers were sentenced this week, as exclusively revealed yesterday by our sister paper Kent on Saturday.

Undercover police officers ensured they had bought and tested heroin and crack cocaine from dealers before they made a co-ordinated dawn raid on 14 properties in February last year.

The operation focused on Tunbridge Wells and the total sentences amounted to 40 years.

Det Insp Tom Richards from Kent Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit said: "This investigation was launched to investigate drugs supply in west Kent.

"Our aim was to get to the people actively distributing heroin and crack cocaine and get them off the streets. The undercover work was just one aspect of the investigation.

"The team doing all the paperwork to get all the evidence together were just as valuable to the success of this case.

"When we arrested the network, many of them were users themselves who were supplying drugs to fund their own habits.

Drugs gang put away

Forty years in jail coup for police after major bust

EXCLUSIVE

SPECIAL TOWEL OFFERS

Now United Nations will

BUSTED: How Kent on Saturday reported the drugs raid which saw 19 people jailed

"However, there were also those who were supplying drugs on a commercial basis."

DI Richards added: "It is testament to hard work of these officers that there was a 100 per cent conviction rate in this case and all of the network are now serving their sentences."

• ***For a full list of names and sentences, go to our news website www.kentnews.co.uk.***

TV legend pulls no punches on what is needed to save planet from destruction

People should think about only having one child, says Sir David Attenborough

EXCLUSIVE

By JENNA PUDELEK

BRITAIN'S best-known natural history film-maker Sir David Attenborough has spoken of the destructive effect of population growth on the environment.

The broadcaster and naturalist spoke to Kent on Sunday ahead of a trip to the county to promote his latest book, an update to his autobiography, Life on Air, which now includes extra chapters on his programmes about the lives reptiles and mammals.

For nearly six decades Sir David, 83, has been a regular feature on the BBC, making entertaining and enlightening documentaries that push the boundaries of film-making.

One of his latest ventures is becoming a patron of the Optimum Population Trust (OPT), a think-tank concerned with the impact of population growth on the environment.

Pressure

Asked about the greatest challenge facing the planet and the natural world, Sir David said: "Population control; there are three times as many people living on the Earth as there were when I started making television programmes. That cannot go on.

"It is because the planet is only so big and only a finite amount of people can live on it.

"How do we deal with it? Well, you needn't do anything yourself and nature will deal with it. And she will do it."

He has said he has never seen a problem that would not be easier solved with fewer people, and Sir David has spent his career travelling the length and breadth of the globe studying wildlife and the pressure it is under.

OPT states on its website the charity is "absolutely opposed to any form of coercion in family planning".

Its aims are to persuade people that lower birth rates are vital to protecting the planet, and to increase access to contraception.

Sir David said: "Famines and wars are increasing as people become more overcrowded, and that has already started.

"There are a lot of things we can do something about. If people's standards of living increase and raise and there is literacy for women then birth control happens."

Asked whether people should then think about having only one child, he said: "Yes, I think so."

His other recent work has been involvement in celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th year since the publication of his seminal On The Origin of Species.

In Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life he took viewers on a journey through the great naturalist's theory of evolution.

The programme included footage from Darwin's Kent home, Down House, where he wrote On The Origin of Species after he returned from his five-year voyage on HMS Beagle.

Sir David said he also provided the guide to English Heritage's revamped Darwin exhibition at the home, near Orpington.

On Tuesday, he presented a documentary called Uncovering Our Earliest Ancestor: The Link about Ida, a 47-million-year-old beautifully preserved fossil that researchers believe provides the missing link in human evolution.

Mankind

"What Ida does is to show the link between primates and the rest of the mammals," he said. "As to whether she is on the line for lemurs or to human beings that is the question that to work out."

He said palaeontologists and anatomists have been and would continue to have lengthy deeply technical and detailed discussions.

"The people who investigated it have come to the conclusion that it is on the mankind line," he said.

"I did not make conclusions one way or the other. It is a great thing – whatever way you look at it. It is a very early example."

Asked what Darwin would make of it all, he said: "He would be thrilled of course. It is a perfectly clear, very early example and shows the link with the rest of the mammals."

Sir David said he was making some radio programmes before heading off to the Antarctic for his next documentary, which will be exploring the natural history of the Poles.

Many think that he has the best job in the world.

"That's true," he added. "It's absolutely marvellous, I cannot comprehend I'm that lucky."

• ***Life on Air is published by BBC Books and costs £20. Sir David will be at Waterstone's in Bluewater on Thursday from 12.30-1.30pm.***

REALITY CHECK: Attenborough will be in Kent to promote an updated version of his book Life On Air

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'Cinderella' service under review

By JENNA PUDELEK

Mental healthcare comes under scrutiny from local authorities

CONCERNS over waiting times for counselling and inadequate provision of talking therapies have seen two local authorities launch a review of mental health services.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells borough councils said councillors would spend three months investigating services.

They urged patients and their carers to share their experiences for a report set to be published by the end of the year.

Tunbridge Wells Cllr John Cunningham, is leading the working group. He said as chair of the Kent LINk, which is the county's patient watchdog for health and social care, he would also be looking for details about the state of services across the county.

Shockingly, the local involvement network's 2008-09 health check report found that one organisation said several of its members had experienced racial discrimination in a unit caring for people with mental health problems.

In another point, a group also said "patients with a history of mental illness may be treated differently and not have their physical ailments attended to appropriately," the report said.

Knowledge

Cllr Cunningham said: "Sometimes we feel there is a lack of partnership working between voluntary organisations so we will be looking at these organisations to see if they are working together and sharing information.

"We are aware through correspondence that members of the public that have mental health problems are unaware of services, how they can access them and that there is a lack of knowledge among the public.

"For many years it has been a rather hidden thing and brushed under the carpet."

He agreed with the commonly used phrase that mental health was the 'Cinderella service' in the NHS.

"There are more and more people with mental health problems to various degrees," he said.

"Kent County Council offers a lot of services and a lot of partnerships in services. We will be contacting KCC about these services and the funding of them. We are also going to look at how GPs deal with mental health problems."

Cllr Cunningham said the views of local people, patients and their families were vital for the review.

"Mental health issues can also be questions of loneliness and depression, living alone, rather tucked away. So we want to reach out and see what we can offer KCC and the primary care trust (PCT)," he said.

NHS West is currently carrying out a separate consultation on mental health services, which was due to be published this spring but has been delayed.

Volunteer organisations and support groups for carers and patients have already raised a number of points about gaps in mental health services with the PCT.

Cllr Cunningham added any experiences submitted to the working group from people would remain anonymous. Although the group will have no formal powers it will be able to make recommendations and highlight issues to encourage providers to improve.

For more information if you live in Maidstone call Louise Smith on01622 602 524 or email louisesmith@maidstone.gov.uk. If you live in Tunbridge Wells call Kat Hicks on 01892554 085 or email kat.hicks@tunbridgewell.gov.uk.

Sherlock struggles to explain Dockyard curse

THIS risqué scene is from the controversial new Sherlock Holmes movie which is more psychotic than cerebral.

Large parts of the new blockbuster were shot in the Historic Dockyard Chatham.

Lock Stock director Guy Ritchie may well have creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle spinning in his grave with scenes of Sherlock, played by Robert Downey Jr being chained naked to a bed with only a pillow to cover his modesty.

The violence quota has been ramped up from the Holmes of old, and the film even includes a bare-knuckle fight.

There were reports things got so crazy Downey Jr was knocked out cold on the set.

It was reported he got too close to a giant 25-stone, 7ft wrestler called Robert Maillet who levelled him with a punch that should have missed himduring a fierce fight scene.

The impact of his fist put the 43-year-old Iron Man star on the floor, knocking him out cold for six seconds. He then needed six stitches to a mouth wound which were apparently administered by a film set nurse.

Jude Law, 35, is his not quite so faithful sidekick Dr Watson, who complains of Sherlock's lack of hygiene, playing the violin at 3am and the fact he keeps borrowing his clothes.

There were also claims some of the crew had to run when a petrol tanker exploded.

A Historic Dockyard source said: "The crew have started joking about the curse of Sherlock Holmes."

BARE TRUTH: Downey Jr in the new movie

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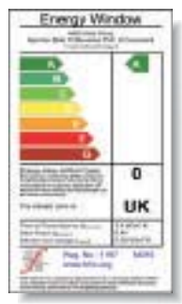

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They'll be watching you

KENT police are at an "advanced stage" on talks to put spy planes in the skies over the county, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

That's the claim from defence contractor BAE Systems. A spokesman said: "There have been some trials going on around the UK, and it's fair to say talks with the police forces interested are at an advanced stage."

The spy planes are called UAVs or 'unmanned aerial vehicles'. The small flying machines are commonplace over the world's warzones and some of them are even armed and able to deliver lethal force over wide areas.

But now their power could be turned on civilians, and as wars between countries with money to spend start to dry up, the developers are looking for new markets – potentially worth up to £5 billion in the next decade.

Police forces are starting to show an interest in utilising the drones over the skies of Britain, and Kent is at the forefront of the controversial development.

While they may have been successful in combating the Taliban, it remains to be seen if they can be used to protect the public in residential and rural areas.

Possible applications being suggested are their use to track muggers, spot stolen vehicles, and catch illegal immigrants out at sea.

Essentially, anything visual a camera-equipped helicopter can do, a UAV will be able to match. They are controlled remotely by operators on the ground.

On-board cameras are powerful and the UAVs can currently stay in the air for around 20 hours – much longer than a manned helicopter crew ever could.

Police chiefs in Kent and Essex, plus senior officials from BAE, have teamed up to create what is called the South Coast Partnership.

Favourite to be used over Kent is the Herti – or High Endurance Rapid Technology Insertion vehicle.

Sounding like something from a sci-fi movie, it is suggested Herti aircraft could even spot crimes automatically and then guide ground forces to the villains.

It is reported the UK business could be worth around £300 million a year for BAE.

David Kershaw, business development director of autonomous systems and future capability at BAE Systems said: "We think we can capitalise on opportunities in the sector.

"We believe the way to go is to build from the military market, then go into the security market and finally capitalise on the civil market."

It set up a global Unmanned Aircraft Systems team 12 months ago to provide a 'one-stop' service for customers.

A spokesman said: "BAE Systems is the industry leader in autonomous systems and is developing and adapting this technology for a wide range of land, sea and air platforms.

"At a time when budgetary pressure on resources and new and emerging threats add to the challenges faced by personnel already dealing with everyday incidents and events, there could not be a better time to introduce autonomous technology to the civil arena.

"In the future, an operator will simply upload a mission plan to the autonomous vehicle, send it safely on its way in civil airspace and then take action based on the information output produced by the system and its sensors."

The Civil Aviation Authority will be involved to give permission to fly the UAVs near airports.

It had been hoped Herti would be developed for civilian applications in time for the 2012 Olympic Games on the county's border, but Kent police have cast doubt on that.

A force spokesman said: "We are still in talks, but it is unlikely to be in the air before the Olympics. There is a lot to be ironed out over possible air space conflicts."

But there have been strong objections to the move. Shami Chakrabarti, the director of human rights group, Liberty, said: "It's a grave step in any democracy to use military surveillance methods against your own peacetime population.

"Where is the lawful authority for this policy? When was the parliamentary debate? A paradigm shift in privacy protection can't be left to cosy little deals between big business and local police."

• ***Pictured is a graphic of how a police Herti may look, it is a fixed-wing air vehicle based around 'proven' airframe and engine design.***

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Clegg to meet Gurkhas

LIBERAL Democrat leader Nick Clegg will be in Maidstone tomorrow to meet Gurkha veterans following their recent victory.

Mr Clegg will be meeting the former soldiers at Coxheath Village Hall, where he will be joined by Gurkha justice campaigner Peter Carroll.

Mr Carroll, Lib Dem parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and the Weald, fought vigorously alongside actress Joanna Lumley to successfully persuade the Government to allow all retired Gurkhas to live in the UK.

He celebrated with Ms Lumley and more than 100 former soldiers following Home Secretary Jacqui Smith's historic announcement on Thursday, May 21.

He said: "A critical part of our success was the vote in the Commons which saw the Liberal Democrat Opposition Day motion defeat the Government with the support of Conservative MPs and Labour 'rebels'.

"This motion was an inspired move by Nick Clegg and his parliamentary team. He and I have campaigned on this issue for a long period and I know Kent Gurkhas will be thrilled to meet up with him at Coxheath."

Speaking about the Gurkha victory, Mr Clegg said: "I am absolutely thrilled the Gurkhas have finally been given justice.

SUCCESS: Peter Carroll campaigned for Gurkha rights with Joanna Lumley

"This is a great victory for the Gurkhas and for everyone who has campaigned on their behalf. Gordon Brown's claim of a 'moral compass' rings hollow when, on every issue from Gurkhas to expenses, he has to be dragged every inch of the way towards doing the right thing."

During his visit Mr Clegg will also be meeting with a large crowd of Cranbrook residents who are campaigning against plans to turn disused council buildings into housing instead of a community centre.

Specialists treating assault victim

A MAN is in hospital with a serious head injury after an assault at a nightclub at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

Police were called to reports of a disturbance at 1.30am on Thursday, following a fire alarm that saw the Venue club evacuated of more than 800 people as a precaution.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service said the fire point had been smashed deliberately.

A 20-year-old from Canterbury is at St George's Hospital in Tooting where he is in a stable condition. He was unconscious when paramedics arrived, but regained consciousness in the ambulance.

Results of scans at the William Harvey Hospital at Ashford meant he was transferred to specialists in London for treatment.

Three people were arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm – two 20-year-old men from Canterbury and an 18-year-old from Portsmouth.

Anyone with any information can contact police on 01227 762055 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Drive in for a day of classic entertainment

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MOTORING fans are getting in gear for the world's biggest classic car show run over a single day.

The Bromley Pageant of Motoring has been running for two decades and continues to grow, now covering the whole of the vast Norman Park area.

This year's offering includes around 3,000 show vehicles, with 150 clubs, plus a host of trade stands and auto jumble areas. Around 27,000 fans are expected.

Events director Jason Lunn said: "This event is the biggest one-day classic vehicle show in the world and features an automotive extravaganza of classic cars, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, stationary engines and plenty more.

"It is the UK's premier classic motoring show and boasts some of the most stunning classic and vintage vehicles from all over the UK and Europe, ranging from the prewar years to more modern eras of motoring.

"From family favourites through to thoroughbred exotic sports cars, there will be something of interest for everyone at the show, Morris to Porsches, Triumphs to Jaguars including classic American cars, as well as displays celebrating 50 years of the Mini."

MAKE AND MODEL: Whether you're a fan of old or new, fast or slow, four wheels or two – there's something for everyone at the pageant

The show's host will be Jerry Thurston from the Channel 4 show Salvage Squad.

He will be working on a special restoration on site, plus Classic Car Weekly magazine will be at the show with a stand of vehicles and information for classic owners.

The arena features parades of exceptional vehicles from throughout the years, and also entertainment including the incredible Steve Colley motorcycle stunt show.

Car care product company Autoglym is holding an all-new Concours at the show featuring custom and modified vehicles as well as classics.

As well as the Minis, the Capri is celebrating 40 years and popular sports car manufacturer Caterham will be displaying its latest models.

There will also be more bikes than in previous years for lovers of two-wheels.

The Bromley Pageant of Motoring is on Sunday, June 14, at Norman Park. You can book tickets at www.bromleypageant.co.uk where you can also download booking forms for clubs, cars for sale and one make entries.

For the public, gates open at 9.30am and parking is free.

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ELECTION SPECIAL: JUNE 4, 2009

Jenna Pudelek and Steve Knight

Who will you place

VOTERS from across the county will head to the polls on Thursday to have their say on how Kent County Council should be run.

All three major parties will be represented, as well as a host of smaller groups and independents all competing for your vote.

Four years ago 64.4 per cent of Kent's electorate turned out to select who they wanted to represent them at County Hall, and those campaigning for your vote will be hoping for an even bigger turnout this week.

KCC is currently made up of 83 men and women tasked with making decisions about the way our schools, roads, social services departments and more are run.

Currently, 56 of those councillors are members of the Conservative Party, giving it overall control of the authority. Labour is represented by 20 people, with six Liberal Democrats and one independent.

Responsibilty

There will also be room for one extra councillor when the Maidstone Rural East seat – which was held by former leader Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart until his death last August – is finally contested.

As one of the largest local authorities in the UK and with a budget this year of £2.3 billion, the importance of Thursday's elections cannot be understated.

The council – which employs about 44,000 staff – has the responsibility of deciding how Kent taxpayers' money should best be spent.

As well as overseeing the management of 570 schools and 101 libraries, it also maintains 22 country parks and picnic sites as well as 5,000 miles of road and 4,200 miles of paths and public rights of way.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk for more information about the elections and the men and women vying for your vote.

CONSERVATIVES

IMPROVING access to vocational programmes for Kent young people and continuing the modernisation of adult social services are among the main priorities for the Tories.

Paul Carter, the current leader of Conservative-controlled Kent County Council, said 4,500 young people were already on vocational courses in the county and he wanted that to increase to 6,000.

Work would also continue to increase the availability of modern apprenticeships, particularly in the public sector but also in the private sector too, with the aim of providing more job opportunities.

There would be a major focus on improving highways work, including potholes and resurfacing, he said, as well as a continued commitment to providing good quality services at the lowest possible cost.

"I think people should vote for competent councillors with a very good track record of running the largest local authority in the country," Mr Carter said. "Not forgetting that when Sandy Bruce-Lockhart became leader we inherited a virtually bankrupt local authority from the Labour and Liberal coalition."

Asked how he thought the MPs' expenses scandal would effect the elections, he said: "I think it's going to be interesting to watch what happens. There will be a number of voters that will want to register a protest vote. I think the turnout will be higher than people expect because there has been so much publicity everyone knows there is an election on."

The Tories have 84 candidates and Mr Carter said he hoped the party would improve on the 57 seats it already holds. He said £90 million had been made in efficiency savings over the past three years and council tax had been set at its lowest level this year.

He added: "We must accept that in the next four years there will be even less money around to run and support these services so future efficiency savings will have to be made without cutting front-line services."

OTHER PARTIES

VOTING Green on June 4 is about creating hope for the future, the party's spokesman told Kent on Sunday.

The party has 35 candidates in the county elections and said that a Green vote would give higher priority to cycling, walking and public transport, and solar panels on schools to reduce their energy costs and environmental impact.

Steve Dawe, the party's spokesman, said: "People should vote green to remind the two major parties that they do not own our votes, that their expenses scandal and unwillingness to provide proportional representation for the county elections mean they do not deserve any public support.

"Above all, we need to prepare Kent for a low carbon future which is in the best interest of future generations. Voting Green is the first step, but a strong commitment in Kent means electing Greens to the county council."

He said that since the MPs' expenses scandal the party was receiving an "exceptionally high level" of calls and emails from interested voters.

The Eurosceptic UK Independence Party has put 27 candidates into the county elections and there are 52 other parties and independents.

On the far-right, the British National Party has eight candidates and there is also a candidate in Maidstone South standing for the National Front.

Others standing include several for the English Democrats, The Peace Party, the Money Reform Party as well as two candidates, in Sheppey and Swale, standing for the Official Monster Raving Loony Party.

133 candidates battling it out for chance to sit on European Parliament

VOTERS heading to the polls for the European Parliament election on Thursday will be taking part in the biggest transnational election in history.

In the South East European region, which covers Kent and seven other counties, 133 candidates will be battling it out for 10 seats.

The European Parliament has a considerable influence, but in the last election in June, 2004, only 37 per cent of those eligible in the South East voted.

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have voted on countless laws that affect people in Kent, from limiting the amount mobile phone operators can charge customers for 'roaming calls' in other EU countries to limiting the sorts of pesticides that can be used by farmers.

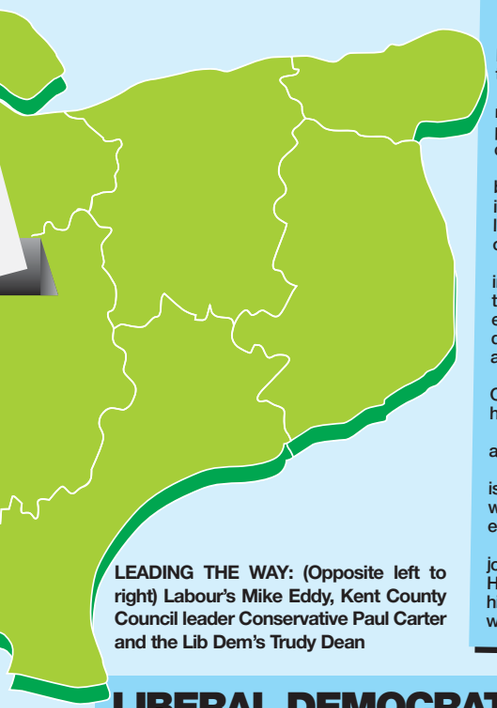
The voting system for the Euro elections is proportional representation in which the number of seats each party wins is calculated according to the share of the vote they achieve.

All the main parties are represented in the South East, along with other groups such as No2EU, Yes to Democracy, The Peace Party, United Kingdom First and The Jury Team.

The main parties' mini manifestos are…

preview the forthcoming county and Euro elections

in County Hall?



LEADING THE WAY: (Opposite left to right) Labour's Mike Eddy, Kent County Council leader Conservative Paul Carter and the Lib Dem's Trudy Dean

LABOUR

KENT Labour leader Cllr Mike Eddy is optimistic about his party's election fortunes, despite admitting they could be hit by a poor turnout.

Fears are growing of record low voting figures amid disillusionment over the MPs' expenses scandal, but Cllr Eddy said he hoped people would not let the actions of a few affect the way local councils are run.

He said: "It would be a great shame if people didn't turn out to vote because these elections have nothing to do with what your local MP is like. It's like cutting your nose off to spite your face – if you didn't like your next-door neighbour, would you start being rude to all your other neighbours as well?

"Historically, poor election turnouts seem to have more of an impact on Labour than on the Conservatives so it's going to be tough, but I think the people we have had in County Hall are extremely good people and there are a good range of other candidates out there. We would like to retain the 20 seats we already have and maybe take one or two others as well.

"The more we have, the more ability we have to stop the Conservatives going off and doing things that look good as far as headlines are concerned but in reality add no value whatsoever."

Cllr Eddy said that as KCC's main opposition party, Labour plays an important role in holding the Tories to account.

He pointed to the £50 million Icelandic banking problems, and the issue of high salaries for senior members of staff as examples, as well as making sure children's centres are built in the areas of greatest need.

Cllr Eddy added: "If we were running the council, we would do the job right. We would get away from pet projects like Kent TV and Kent Health Watch, and rather than be obsessed with reorganising the highways department we would repaint white lines and improve roads when they are needed rather than wait for accidents to happen."

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

TRUDY Dean has urged Kent's voters to turn out in force to avoid them handing too much power to the Conservatives.

KCC's Liberal Democrat leader fears that despite all three major parties being caught up in the MPs' expenses scandal, the Tories will benefit most if the more casual voters decide to stay at home.

She said: "The county council spends about 80 per cent of taxpayers' money so they need to express a wish of how that money should be spent.

"Staying at home as a result of MPs' expenses does not help the situation in any way at all and could give a green light to the Conservative administration to sweep things under the carpet.

"Paul Carter is predicting that they will win 70 out of 84 seats and something like that is not out of the question, especially if the people who would normally have voted Labour do not do so. That's not good for democracy.

"We've been trying very hard to get the message across that MPs' expenses do not apply to county councillors, but there's no doubt people are very cross about it.

"However, some recognise that it was the Lib Dems who forced the disclosure of the expenses in the first place."

There are currently only six Lib Dem councillors sitting on KCC, and Cllr Dean said she hoped the party could at least retain those seats, despite predicting a tough battle ahead.

She said her and her fellow councillors' main election promises were to cut spending on projects such as Kent TV and Kent Health Watch, and provide better long-term funding for road repairs.

Cllr Dean added: "We also want to pursue more eco-friendly issues like doorstep plastic recycling and the replanting of highway trees, particularly in urban areas to help clear the air."

Labour

WE have taken radical action to support the British economy in the worst global recession since the 1930s.

In Winning the Fight for Britain's Future there are a number of themes which will be highlighted during the local and European election campaign.

Global recession needs global solutions – this Labour Government is working internationally, nationally and locally to get people through these tough times and build a better future.

Conservatives

WE believe in an open, flexible Europe in which countries work to achieve shared goals rather than the ever-greater centralisation of power in Brussels.

We believe that in democracies nothing lasting can be built without the people's consent and yet people have been denied their say on the renamed EU Constitution [the Lisbon Treaty]. A Conservative government would never join the euro.

UKIP

THE UK Independence Party is committed to withdrawing Britain from the EU.

As the debate on the Lisbon Treaty has now made clear, the EU agenda is complete political union with all the main functions of national government taken over the bureaucratic institutions of Brussels.

Green Party

THE Green Party is fighting for a greener Europe. The party supports a Europe-wide expansion of energy conservation and renewable energy to resist climate change and create useful jobs. An improved commitment to social justice is a key Green concern.

A Green New Deal in Europe must include more democracy, including referenda on aspects of EU policies, and more powers for the European Parliament over the un-elected Commission.

Lib Dems

THE Liberal Democrats are campaigning on a platform that Europe delivers real benefits for people in the economy, dealing with crime and protecting the environment.

The party will continue to champion reform and transparency: in company and financial regulation, in EU instituions and in MEPs' allowances.

More than three million UK jobs, £70 billion in pay, depend on trade with other EU countries. This is 10 times more than the net cost of being in the EU. We need strong, active MEPs to help make EU rules suit the UK. Opting out leaves us weak and takes away our say.

Water firm installing compulsory meters

THOUSANDS of water meters will be installed throughout Folkestone from tomorrow as part of an ongoing conservation drive.

More than half the town's houses are already on the compulsory scheme, with a further 11,000 meters due to be set up over the next 18 months.

Folkestone and Dover Water began to introduce metering two years ago after the region was awarded 'area of water scarcity status' by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

It began with a trial scheme in Lydd, and since then more than 8,000 homes have been covered.

Metering and water efficiency manager Ian McAthy said: "Meters are usually installed at external stop taps that are mostly located in pavements or verges.

"Only a handful will have to be installed inside properties so for most customers it will take place almost unnoticed.

"Customers will be sent letters advising them of when their property will be metered, and they will also be given an information pack that highlights the opportunities for water-saving."

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Pleasure and pain

Kent on Sunday reporter and Gillingham FC season ticket holder Steve Knight relives a painful trip to Wembley, a nervous 90 minutes, and explains why Ghostbusters is the best way to celebrate

WHEN Simeon Jackson leapt highest to head home his last-minute Wembley winner, more than 30,000 Gillingham fans went crazy.

After watching their team dominate the game without scoring, the Canadian striker's 21st goal of a long, hard season was met with absolute delight as grown men and women literally jumped for joy.

But for somebody as pessimistic and superstitious about football as I am, a great deal of my own personal celebration was down to sheer relief.

As soon as the regular League Two season had finished and Gillingham's play-off fate had been sealed, the only thing I and probably many other supporters were thinking was: "I hope we don't get Shrewsbury".

After all, Paul Simpson's men had inflicted an embarrassing 7-0 defeat on our lads earlier in the campaign, while their top scorer and player-of-the-year Grant Holt has been terrorising defences all season. But of course, the football section of Sod's Law clearly states the team you fear most is the team you're going to get. And so it was.

Fast-forward a few weeks and I'm standing on the platform at Chatham railway station with my dad, his friend and two of my own, trying to stay calm as one of them confidently predicts Gillingham are destined to win.

Tempting fate is a definite no-no in my book, so I'm still amazed I was able to stop myself from throttling him with my scarf.

Perhaps I was too nervous to be angry, or perhaps I finally realised one person's view has no bearing on how the game will play out.

Southeastern apparently laid on extra carriages for supporters travelling to Wembley, and it was a wise decision judging by how many people fought to get on each crowded train that passed.

But of all those hundreds of fans, it was typical that my party would be the one stuck in the same compartment as a group of drunken, cackling females who made me wish I'd travelled by car. In fact, I'd have rather walked to Wembley barefoot on broken glass.

Atmosphere

Needless to say, it was a relief when we finally arrived in London and were able to soak up the pre-match atmosphere.

Walking along Wembley Way with thousands of other Gillingham supporters is an experience in itself, and one I'm glad to have enjoyed three times in the last 10 years.

The match itself was eerily quiet as far as our half of the stadium was concerned, which most likely was due to the extra 20,000 or so 'fans' that never usually bother to support their local team and did not know the words to our chants. But nobody cared about that when Jackson scored and sent the Gills back into League One. I certainly didn't, I was too busy jumping around like a madman.

Despite knowing Gillingham were one of the best teams in League Two last season, my 'glass-is-half-empty' football philosophy left me almost convinced we were going to lose.

I was absolutely delighted to be proved wrong and celebrated that night by singing along to Ghostbusters in a Chinese karaoke bar. As you do.

There's nothing quite like football for bringing people together, and rarely do so many Kent residents unite for a common goal than when Gillingham play at Wembley. Hopefully their victory and subsequent return to League One will mark the beginning of another successful era in the club's history, and give this county further reason to be proud.

Up the Gills!

Picture: ADY KERRY

GOAL SCORER: Simeon Jackson

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Disabled: We won't settle for half a life

PEOPLE with disabilities have been left feeling isolated and let down after County Hall bosses closed their day centre as part of a modernisation of social services.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Around 100 people attended a public meeting to register their anger at the way Kent County Council handled the closure of the Queen Elizabeth Foundation (QEF) centre in Dartford.

Celia Luscombe, who has a rare form of the condition ataxia, which affects her mobility and has left her in a wheelchair, told Kent on Sunday: "What we've been left with is not suitable, the building and the equipment is just not fit for purpose.

"It does not seem to matter how much we convey this to KCC they just do not seem to listen, it's as if they think half a life is better than nothing.

"Our point, is why should we settle for that? We are not second-class citizens, we deserve the same as everyone else."

The disabled rights campaigners launched the North Kent Disabled Foundation (NKDF) at the meeting last week and are angry that since the purpose-built QEF closed in October last year, service users have been provided with "inferior and incomplete" new facilities.

Now, more than 100 people who used to go to the old centre, which was open five days a week, have instead been offered alternative facilities in Dartford, Swanscombe and Gravesend for three days a week.

Split up

Miss Luscombe, 31, said: "They've completely split up our community. If someone has been sent to Gravesend and their friend is in Swanley, how are they going to meet up?"

KCC said the QEF centre was "outdated" and closed to give people more independence, choice and control.

Tom Munns, whose career as a solicitor was cut short after he suffered a stroke that left him in a wheelchair, said the physiotherapist who used to work at the QEF has not been replaced.

He said: "They [KCC] did promise us it was going to be a modernisation, which in my mind means an improvement but things are worse now. I do feel I've been let down.

"Quite a few people I used to know have just disappeared. Whether they have found somewhere else or are staring at four walls feeling sorry for themselves, I just don't know.

"I don't think they've been listening to our concerns, I think it is about how much money they can save and they're hoping we'll get fed up and drift away."

The 65-year-old said until recently one of the alternative centres offered only had one disabled toilet.

Miss Luscombe, who said she enjoyed activities that made her use her brain, said: "My personal feeling is people think when your body packs up then every else packs up. But I have a healthy, active mind and I like to use it."

She said since the centre closed she has too much time on her hands, although she has been trying to keep busy setting up and maintaining a website for her local church.

Independence

"The main thing that's been affected is the social aspect," she added: "KCC could have handled it much better than they have.

"When the QEF closed they said they were going to integrate us into the community but nothing is being done towards that. The only able-bodied people we see are the agency staff at the centre and the bus drivers."

A KCC spokesman said: "The way in which services were provided needed to change because the Resource Centre [QEF] was outdated and was not what physically disabled people from across Kent tell us they want.

"Neither did it reflect national policy and local priorities in respect of giving people independence, choice and control. It was never the declared intention to provide a like-for-like service.

"We know those who met through the Resource Centre valued the social aspect of that service very highly. That was why the new service was provided in the way it was, including the use of direct payments, which puts people in charge of how they get services.

"The majority using the service have told us they are happy with how it is working, but, as with any new service, there is still work to be done."

Treading a fresh path to success

AN AMATEUR photographer's spontaneous shot of a young man and woman running through the snow-covered Kent countryside has won a national photographic competition.

Daniel Clinch, a teacher from Tunbridge Wells, beat more than 3,000 photographers with his image, Treading a Fresh Path, scooping a prize of £5,000 and the opportunity to display his work at the famous luxury store Liberty in London.

The 28-year-old said: "It was taken on the lane between Standford and Sellindge. We were out in the snow and my brother started fooling around.

"I've only really been taking photographs for year. To win the competition was amazing."

The competition was run by the makers of Tanqueray Gin and Magnum Photos and entrants were challenged to capture rich, intense moments in life for their interpretation of the theme Taste for Life.

Mr Clinch's picture was displayed alongside work by renowned Magnum photographers Stuart Franklin, Eve Arnold and Peter Marlow.

Daughter 'left mum's body in the freezer for 20 years'

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

POLICE are investigating after finding the body of an elderly woman that had been kept in a freezer for decades.

There are reports her daughter was worried her immigration status would be called into question following the death.

So she hid the body at their semi in Sidcup, possibly as long as 20 years ago. Met Police said they are looking into the immigration inquiry, but have no firm evidence as yet.

The daughter was quizzed by detectives for several hours, but was not formally arrested.

The police said they are trying to get to the bottom of the distressing circumstances surrounding the death.

A Met spokesman said: "We were contacted at approximately 11am on Wednesday, May 20, to attend a residential address in Park Mead, Sidcup. Officers found the body of a woman in a freezer. We believe the body had been in situ for at least 20 years. The deceased has been identified as Gulbai Freedoon Murzdan, born in December, 1901."

He said a post mortem was scheduled to take place on Friday at Farnborough Hospital Mortuary.

The spokesman added: "The death is being treated as unexplained and is being investigated by officers from Bexley CID."

It is understood the alarm was raised when the daughter, Daulat Irani, 83, confided in a neighbour.

Forensic officers carefully removed the remains that were deep frozen, and which would take time to defrost naturally.

Neighbours have spoken of their concerns. One said: "I think it was an immigration thing because her mum was illegal and they didn't want anyone to know."

And another neighbour, Ray Dyson, 77, told reporters Irani was a "nice old lady" who went quietly about her business.

He added: "This has all come as a bit of a shock. The first we knew was when two police cars and an officer in a full forensic bodysuit turned up."

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TUNE IN: Ben Mills was among the musicians playing at the West Track Studios opening

Studio goes on the record for accessibility

X FACTOR runner-up Ben Mills was among the performers at the opening of new community recording studios run by people with learning disabilities.

West Track Studios is a purpose-built recording, rehearsal and multimedia facility in Canterbury that is available to hire and is fully accessible for people who use wheelchairs.

Jo Kidd, chief executive of Skillnet Group, the not-for-profit, community-interest company that runs the studios, said the facility's accessibility to people with disabilities was rare in the recording and rehearsal business. She said: "Because it is run by Skillnet, people with learning difficulties work together equally with those without learning disabilities.

"It is available to everyone in the community and is run as a social enterprise."

Whitstable's Ben Mills shot to fame after coming third on series three of ITV's the X Factor in 2006 behind Leona Lewis and Ray Quinn. He was among the local artists who performed at the launch of the studios last week.

Other performers include Ivan Thompson from Hullabaloo, Alan King from the Chillbillies, David Gwilliam from the Blue Bandits and Martin Elliott.

Quality

Mrs Kidd said: "We wanted somewhere that people could learn proper skills rather than the rubbish that people with learning disabilities usually get offered.

"It is a quality recording studio and I know a lot of people have said that in Canterbury there is not enough things for local bands and musicians."

After the launch at the studios in Roper Road the party moved to The Farmhouse in the city, where two of Kent's most promising bands provided the entertainment.

The Soundcasters, who have a 1960s-influenced retro sound and look, and the Aquitaine Progression, who take a wide range of influences from Muse and Jeff Buckley to Radiohead, are the kind of up-and-coming artists that will benefit from the new studios.

Mrs Kidd added: "It has to be about the commercially viable and we will be charging rent for people, for professional musicians, so that we can provide discounted rates to other charities and not-for-profit organisations."

For more information see the website at www.westtrackstudios.co.uk or call Louisa Jones on 01227 455782.

We must work together

Obama asked to consult UK before banking clampdown

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

PROPOSALS to clamp down on the American banking system could pose a threat to the financial sector in the UK, warns an influential MP.

Sevenoaks representative Michael Fallon, who is a member of the Treasury Committee, visited Washington last week for a series of talks about how the US government plans to regulate the crisis-hit financial sector and change its risk-taking culture.

However, the Tory backbencher told Kent on Sunday it was important the Obama administration did not press ahead without working closely with Westminster and Europe. Mr Fallon said: "Every two years the Treasury Committee goes to Washington to meet with the US Treasury, Congress, Federal Reserve and officials from the Federal Reserve Bank, as well as other agencies and Congressional bodies.

"Usually we are just keeping in touch with them, but on this occasion it was a vital series of meetings because the future of the City of London is at stake.

"The purpose was to discuss banking regulations both in Westminster and in Congress, and new draft laws in accounting standards, the role of credit ratings agencies and over-the-counter derivatives – all the bits that caused the American banking crisis two years ago. It comes from the G20 meeting where the governments committed to regulate investment banking institutions, but we can't have one country doing it on its own.

"We need to know if these new legislations could damage London and whether the Americans are likely to legislate first before either Europe or Westminster."

The US Treasury announced last week that it wanted to clamp down on the over-the-counter-derivatives market – a once-booming 'shadow' banking system closely linked to the global credit crisis.

Mr Fallon is concerned that unless American regulations fit in with those of other countries, it could cause further financial turmoil for some nations.

However, he added that it might not be all bad news.

Mr Fallon said: "If the Americans over-regulate financial institutions like they did following the Enron scandal in 2001, they could end up driving businesses to the UK, so we could benefit in that way.

"But the UK Government is preparing a white paper on its own banking regulations so the Treasury Committee will produce a report on our visit to Washington with our recommendations in July."

Mr Fallon was also quick to point out to his constituents that there was no time for sight-seeing during his stay in the US capital.

He said: "We had 22 meetings in three-and-a-half days, so there was little time for anything else. It was vital for us to understand the American approach to new financial regulations and to ensure London doesn't miss out."

SUPPORT: Michael Fallon hopes President Barack Obama will instruct the US Treasury to work with, rather than against, the UK

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Mary's on a mission to save the charity shop

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MARY Portas, TV's self-styled Queen of Shops spent months working her magic on a charity shop, which will be used in three episodes of a new BBC2 series.

The shopping guru worked with staff at the Save the Children shop in Orpington to turn it from a dingy stereotyped charity dungeon to a high-flying fashion store.

New manager Jo Khalief, 44, said: "She really did work wonders with the place.

"I didn't see the store before the makeover, but by all accounts you wouldn't recognise it now. We are all now part of the Mary Portas 'living and giving' thinking where we involve the community in helping to make this shop a major success. It is a flagship store now, and is such a great place to work."

Jo, from Orpington, helped run a Scope charity shop before. She said: "I am not in episode one, but am in the next two. It was great fun having the cameras here. It was very exciting."

A spokesman for Save the Children said: "We are very lucky to have the services of Mary Portas working with us on this."

Portas said: "Charity shops are the poor relation on the shopping scene."

She said charity shops are struggling to grab the attention of shoppers in an economic climate where they should be cashing in. Customers are counting the pennies and trying to live greener lives, yet they're ignoring these shops, despite their low-cost stock and a free recycling service.

STYLE: Mary Portas has been working with volunteers at Save the Children in Orpington

Portas, 49, believes the time has come for charity shops to become a serious contender on the high street: "I'm making it my job to breathe new life into them and to make them a shopping destination."

Far from the glamour of high fashion that she's used to, the charity shop sector is a different world – one where the majority of her sales staff are over 75 and have no retail experience.

Portas finds that many of them are more concerned with making a good cuppa than with making the most of their stock – which is shabby at best.

Now in the series Mary Queen of Charity Shops, she took six months to try devise a plan that could transform any charity shop on any high street into a professional and relevant money-making retailer.

Portas is one of the UK's foremost authorities on retail and brand communication and was once in charge of Harrods window displays.

The series starts on Tuesday. For details go to www.savethechildren.org.uk/maryportas.

TRIP: Nine fundraisers drove 84 miles

Challenge is on the wall

MEMBERS of Britain's only mobility scooter display team trundled along Hadrian's Wall to raise almost £8,000 for a charity.

The Canterbury-based Red Wheelies – whose members all suffer from multiple sclerosis – rode 84 miles across the Roman fortification in less than a fortnight.

Money raised from the tiring trek will be donated to the Kent MS Therapy Centre, which offers therapy, nurse clinics, support groups, counselling and advice for patients and their carers.

Team leader Jackie Weeden said: "We wanted to show people that MS is not the end and that it can actually be the start of something new and different."

It is thought the nine Red Wheelies who took part – eight of whom are grandmothers – are the first to travel across the 2,000-year-old Hadrian's Wall on mobility scooters.

The group was formed several years back when Mrs Weeden and other users of the MS Therapy Centre were told they would not be allowed to race their scooters at the London Marathon. The women instead decided to set up a formation team that would perform at charity events.

Today the Red Wheelies have an eager core of riders who meet at least once a week to practice and have several performances booked for the summer.

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Smart, but wet, solution to tackle house break-ins

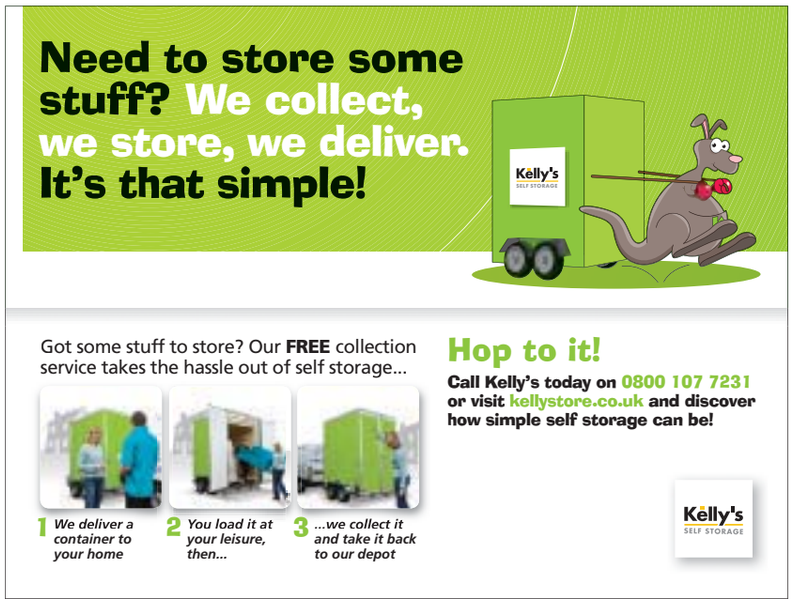
BURGLARIES have fallen dramatically in one Kent district thanks to new crime-busting water kits handed out by police.

Every bottle of SmartWater has its own unique forensic code, meaning police who use special scanners to catch offenders with the invisible liquid on their skin or clothes know exactly what house criminals have targeted.

Almost 100 people in the Milton Regis area of Sittingbourne have signed up to the initiative, which also involves officers putting up warning signs for would-be burglars.

Between October last year and March of this year there was just one burglary in the district compared to 18 in the previous six months – a huge drop of 94 per cent.

Chief Insp Tony Henley said: "Criminals need to be aware that this new technology has a 100 per cent conviction rate to date, with an irrefutable link to the scene of a crime."



UNITED: John Burton Race (left) with Richard Martin who will run the new restaurant

Michelin chef is on the menu for new restaurants

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

ONE of Britain's top chefs is helping to launch two major restaurants in the county.

John Burton Race starred in a Channel 4 show called French Leave when he moved his wife Kim and six children across the English Channel to set up a new life.

But they were soon back in the UK again and now the multi Michelin-starred chef has been appointed as head of group development for Kent Inns of Distinction.

More than £500,000 is being lavished on the company's new projects.

The privately owned Kent-based restaurant and hotel operator, said it is involved in ambitious expansion plans with the acquisition of two derelict sites which will see between 30-50 new jobs.

The celebrity chef who heads the New Angel Michelin-starred restaurant in Dartmouth, has been appointed as head of group development, with detailed responsibilities including training and menu development.

Fantastic

Harvey's Fish Market and Oyster Bar in Ramsgate's Royal Harbour, is due to open next month.

It was shut two years ago, but now the former pub will reopen under its new guise following a complete £250,000 refit.

Within 50 feet of the harbour wall, Harvey's will be a dedicated seafood restaurant in the country's only Royal harbour.

The head chef will be trained at the New Angel.

Harvey's will become the latest addition to the Kent Inns of Distinction portfolio, owned and operated by the husband and wife team of Richard and Sherry Martin, who live in Sandwich.

The company has also acquired the 15th century Ivy House, in Tonbridge, and gave it a £150,000 refit. It too had been closed for some time. Now the pub and restaurant, said to be the only one of its kind in the town centre, is managed by the couple's son Daniel.

Richard Martin said: "Our business is all about food, and despite the downturn and doom mongering in some corners of the press our customers are still coming out to eat.

"Our new businesses are in fantastic locations and with John Burton Race's involvement we will be able to introduce some really exciting new styles of food at all our restaurants."

The company, formed in 2004, already runs the Dog Inn at Wingham.

It is a Grade-II listed 13th century inn built in the reign of King John I and originally formed part of a monastery.

The restaurant is listed in Egon Ronay's guide as among the UK's best.

Plus they have the Blazing Donkey – a 1763 farmhouse with commanding unspoilt views across rolling countryside nestled between the ancient Cinque Port towns of Sandwich and Deal.

The Ham hotel's Samphire restaurant has drawn critical acclaim since being opened in February last year by TV chef Aldo Zilli. It was bought for £1.75 million in 2007.

John Burton Race is a leading chef and highly successful restaurateur with a larger-than-life personality. He trained at Raymond Blanc's Le Manoir Aux Quat'Saisons and became head chef of Le Petit Blanc.

Burton Race took two Michelin stars for his restaurant L'ortolan in 1986, and for the work done at London's Landmark Hotel in 2000.

He turned television star with French Leave and later with Return of the Chef. He then opened The New Angel in Dartmouth, and once again was awarded a Michelin star.

He has also co-starred in BBC Two's Kitchen Criminals; co-authored the accompanying book First Crack Your Egg, and appeared on ITV1's I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here where he had regular run-ins with Lynne Franks.

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Policing awards

PEOPLE in Kent have been urged to nominate police community support officers, force volunteers, special constables and community wardens for a special awards ceremony.

Ann Barnes, chairwoman of the Kent Police Authority, launched this year's Safer Kent Awards, which celebrate outstanding work with the public, on Monday.

She said the scheme had now been extended to include police officers and young people under 21.

"Let's remember that society is often quick to complain but not so quick to say thank you," Mrs Barnes said.

Entries will be judged by a panel that includes the union Unison and the Police Federation. The closing date for entries in July 1 and an award ceremony will be held in September. To nominate an individual or team go to www.kentpa.kent.police.uk or call 01622 677 055.

Shopping doctor

PATIENTS in Medway can now visit their doctor while doing their shopping after the opening of the county's first GP surgery inside a pharmacy.

The new practice opened in the Boots store in the Pentagon Shopping Centre, Chatham, and is part of the local primary care trust's work to improve access to appointments with GPs.

Appointments at Boots will be available from 8am to 6.30pm during weekdays and from 9am to 2pm on Saturdays and from 10am to 1pm on Sundays. The store's pharmacy is also available at these times.

Dr Protichi Mallik, medical director of College Health, which is managing the service, said: "We are offering lunchtime appointments for the convenience of local workers in Chatham."

Buy one ticket get one free at The Hop Farm

READER OFFER

THE Hop Farm Family Park is one of Kent's largest tourist attractions and is set amongst 400 acres of beautiful countryside.

The park, which has recently seen a £2.5 million refurbishment, features a wealth of fun things to do for all the family, many of which are under cover, so there's no need to worry about the great British weather.

New this year is the Great Goblin Hunt, which transports children to a fantasy world in a quest to find mischievous goblins hidden within the five differently themed zones.

On entering the new attraction, you're given a pair of special 3-D glasses to wear which produce a spectacular effect designed to blow your mind.

Plus the vintage Victorian carousel, the only one of its kind in the UK, features 40 brightly painted horses and dragon chariots to ride.

There's also a children's driving school, Legends In Wax, Yesterday's World village and an Animal Farm.

England's first-ever Magic Factory reveals the secrets of some of the most dazzling tricks around, including levitation, the floating head, mirror maze, the mind-boggling trommel and the disappearing act.

Giant Jumping Pillows are perfect for burning off any unwanted energy and for the creative there's the craft and pottery centre. The new Shires Inn restaurant offers delicious hot and cold meals, drinks and light snacks throughout the day.

The Hop Farm is the ideal UK holiday destination as it's recently opened a 300-pitch touring park, which has electric hookups, hard standing areas and shower and toilet facilities.

The park also hosts phenomenally successful events all year including the world-renowned War and Peace Show, The Hop Festival and Paws In The Park, which offers fun for all the family.

The Hop Farm is offering a fantastic offer exclusively for Kent on Sunday readers – when you buy one Hop Farm adult or child ticket you get one ticket free, only with your Kent on Sunday for the month of June, 2009.

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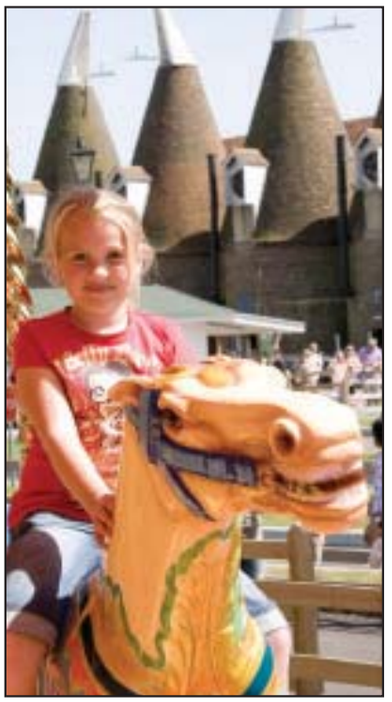

Health staff remove magazines to avoid infection but expert says it's over the top

Medical centre 'ahead of game' on swine flu

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A MEDICAL centre has removed all magazines and toys from its waiting room as part of a "better safe than sorry" policy to combat the spread of swine flu.

While some experts say at this stage the move is overkill, staff at the Clanricarde Medical Centre in Tunbridge Wells are determined to be ahead of the game.

The World Health Organisation said once the swine flu alert reaches its maximum pandemic level, up from the present level five, then surgeries should be stripped of anything that might be capable of harbouring the virus.

But practice manager at Clanricarde, Tricia Gray, said: "I decided to take the magazines and toys out because I feel it is better to be safe than sorry.

"The World Health Organisation put the level up to five, and that's when I took the decision.

Emergency

"Better safe than sorry is the way I looked at it and we are perfectly happy with the decision.

"Staff members always wipe down all the surfaces in their area using antibacterial wipes. We all look after things like the handrails.

"This is a case of educating people as well.

"Our priority is the patients that come in here. If they want to read a magazine, they can bring their own in, and if children are upset about the toys, then they can bring their own toys in.

"It has been suggested to us that we shouldn't have toys at all because they can pass on not only flu germs, but all sorts of germs.

"We also have a notice on the door asking people to use the sanitising gel when you come in and every single patient does it.

"When we do get a pandemic, then our patients will be educated on what to do and why it is being done."

The Department of Health confirmed current guidance is that if a pandemic is declared by the World Health Organisation, then magazines and leaflets along with anything else that may be a risk by harbouring moisture or dirt should be removed.

The guidelines read: "All non-essential furniture, especially soft furnishings, should be removed from reception and waiting rooms in hospitals, GP consulting and treatment rooms, day rooms and lounges, and accident and emergency departments.

"The remaining furniture should be easy to clean and should not conceal or retain dirt and moisture. Toys, books, newspapers and magazines should be removed from the waiting area." However, renowned bacteriologist Prof Hugh Pennington said: "This is a bit over the top at the moment. We don't have very much swine flu in the UK, less than a couple of hundred cases and not very much in the South East. We are not at the pandemic level." Worldwide, the number of A(H1N1) swine flu cases has soared to nearly 13,400 in 48 countries, with 100 deaths, according to the World Health Organisation.

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Golf guide's on the right course

VISIT Kent has produced a glossy guide to golf in Kent as part of the company's campaign to promote the sport.

The move is part of the run up to 2011, when Royal St George's Golf Club in Sandwich will host the Open Championship for the 16th time.

The guide highlights the diversity of Kent's courses, from the acclaimed links courses such as Princes Golf Club and Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club to modern classics like the London Golf Club and Chart Hills and the more unique venues like Leeds Castle Golf Club.

Other activity to date includes a dedicated golf microsite www.visitkent.co.uk/golf, and e-newsletters.

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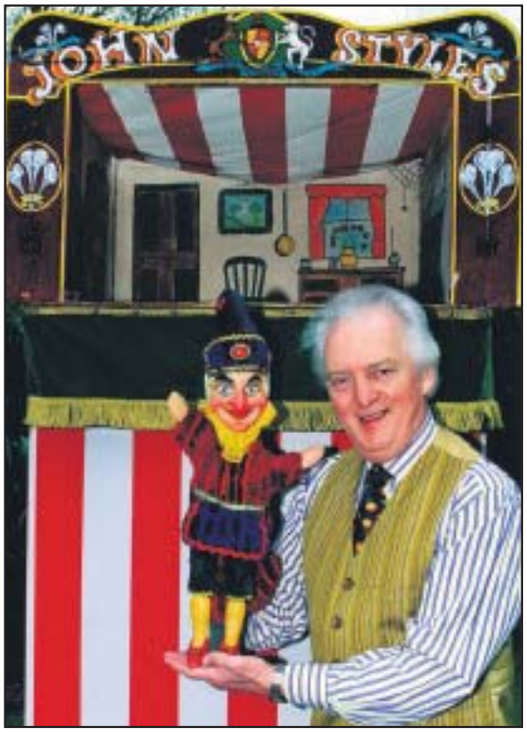
That was the way to do it...

Punch and Judy man's life story is a tale of family entertainment from a bygone age



SHOWMAN: John Styles with Punch and his traditional booth

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A PUNCH and Judy man who has even played for Royalty is releasing a DVD about his life.

John Styles had to be convinced to take up the 'swazzle'.

The now 74-year-old was born in Walthamstow, east London, but has lived in Sidcup, for about 40 years. He said: "The whole thing has changed over the decades.

"Once we could just set up and play the Punch and Judy shows, now there is a lot more needed, like checks and licensing.

"But people even today still love the shows. Some may worry about the content, but children don't go out and abuse crocodiles, it is usually just the adults who read too much into it.

"I still have plenty of calls to do shows, but the audiences have changed. This sort of entertainment used to be huge, but over the years, tastes changed.

"Television came along, and that closed many of the theatres and venues.

"It is making a comeback as people are looking for something different again."

Mr Styles' first venture into the world of entertainment came when he took up magic and performed at the Walthamstow Palace, the Hackney Empire and the Finsbury Park Empire just after World War Two when TVs were rare.

He signed up with the London Society of Magicians Club's student club and was told about a magician called Oscar Oswald, who had a shop selling ventriloquists' dummies, Punch and Judy puppets, and magic tricks.

Mr Styles gave up his office job to the dismay of his parents and started working with Oswald for two years before his National Service, after which he promised to get a proper job once back on civvy street.

Mr Styles' worked with a young Tommy Cooper and the magician David Nixon.

Then he had to help sort out a Punch and Judy double booking, and once he practised for hours with the swazzle, the device to provide Punch's distinctive voice, he did the show and was hooked.

Celebrity

In 1953 there were many parties for the Queen's coronation and as word spread, work picked up. He even met his wife Barbara who offered to carry some of his bags, and today she said: "I am still doing it."

It was her idea for him to take up entertaining full time, and Mr Styles took the plunge with it paying off handsomely.

He was accepted in to the Concert Artists' Association and his career began to move forward at full steam, with celebrity concerts, cruises, cabaret, and television appearances on programmes such as The Avengers, Crackerjack, Play School, Playaway, Randall and Hopkirk Deceased, Rainbow and It's Marty Feldman.

He also did private shows for Alma Cogan, Lionel Bart and The Beatles.

The list of clients also included Lords and Ladies, the Saatchi, Forte, Tesco, Marks and Spencer, and Delfont families, Bruce Forsyth, David Bailey, Michael Aspel, Roy Hudd, Honor Blackman, Ronnie Corbett, Judith Chalmers, Trevor Nunn and Imogene Stubbs, Jane Asher and Gerald Scarfe, Giles Brandreth, Clive Dunn and Harry Hill and Graham Hill, Sir John Mills and many more.

He has also performed at an International Puppet Festival in Germany, which led to him being invited to perform in Belgium, Finland, Holland, Denmark, Spain, Italy and Canada.

He has repeatedly been back to Amman in Jordan to entertain King Hussein and all the Royal Family and, on more than one occasion has entertained the children of the Sultan of Brunei, also King Constantine of Greece and his family and Diana, The Princess of Wales, together with Princes William and Harry.

With all the success, Mr Styles was recently included in the Queen's New Year Honours List and at Buckingham Palace received an MBE for 'Services to the Arts (Especially Punch and Judy Shows)'.

He said: "It is wonderful that I am still able to work. This DVD on my life is amazing.

"They did a really good job with it, and it brings back so many memories of me performing on the beaches in the 50s with all the children sitting and watching intently.

"It really is a look into a bygone age."

The DVD is £12 include postage. For more information visit www.johnstylesentertainer.co.uk.

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Cyclists are told get on your bikes and ride to make our roads safer

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

CHANNEL 4 News presenter Jon Snow is campaigning in tandem with a Kent MP to make Britain's roads safer for cyclists.

The respected broadcaster is president of the national cyclists' organisation CTC, which is putting pressure on the Government to help promote its 'safety in numbers' campaign.

Dover and Deal MP Gwyn Prosser, who is chairman of the all-party cycling group, is one of those backing the campaign and has tabled an Early Day Motion (EDM) on the issue in Parliament.

He said: "When we ask people living in the towns and big cities why they don't cycle to work or school, most say it's because they think it's too dangerous.

"What we're trying to say is that even though there will always be some element of danger, cycling will become safer the more people there are doing it.

"The statistics show quite clearly that as the numbers go up the accident rate falls. The important message we are trying to get across is that it's far safer than you might think it is."

Mr Prosser's EDM asks the House of Commons to acknowledge the evidence that cyclists gain from safety in numbers and to support his view that the Government's draft road safety strategy should tackle the fears that deter people from cycling – such as traffic speeds, irresponsible driving and "hostile" roads and junctions.

So far more than 100 fellow MPs have signed the motion.

Strive

According to CTC, London has seen a 91 per cent increase in cycle use since 2000, together with a 33 per cent reduction in cyclist casualties.

Snow, who is enjoying his 20th year as the face of Channel 4 News, said: "My own experiences as a regular cyclist tell me that London's streets have started to get a lot safer, thanks to the growth in cycling over the past decade.

"We all know more cycling is good, not just for our health, but also for our communities and the environment. I hope decision-makers throughout the country will now heed CTC's message that more cycling will improve road safety too."

As part of his role as chairman of the all-party cycling group, Mr Prosser and other members visited Amsterdam to see how the Dutch have successfully made the bicycle their most popular mode of transport.

When asked if he thought the English would ever go the same way, Mr Prosser said: "I would love that to be the case and that's something we have to strive for.

"It's absolutely amazing to go to Holland and see how the bike is king out there. The city centres are almost car free. They're light years ahead of us, but we've picked up a few ideas that we can bring back here.

"The first step is to get people over the safety barrier, and then hopefully everything else will follow."

Picture: CTC

RIDE ON: Jon Snow (left) with Gwyn Prosser (far right)

Heritage proposal

THE team behind Chatham's bid for World Heritage Site status have extended their proposal to include the River Medway.

The new boundary adds Upnor Castle to the main zone, which centres on Chatham Historic Dockyard and its defences.

The Dockyard and its defences are on the UK shortlist of potential World Heritage Site nominations and project partners are targeting the application date of 2011.

In order to achieve the status, sites are being asked to show how they involve local people in promoting their heritage.

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THE Range has arrived and it's settling in well.

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The Range has brought with it new opening hours – you will be able to shop for longer with the centre open from 9am-8pm on Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm on Saturdays, 11am-5pm on Sundays and 10am-5pm on Bank Holidays.

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To celebrate the new opening, The Range at the Dockside Outlet, Chatham, is giving away £300 of vouchers to spend anywhere in the centre.

For your chance to win, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to The Range Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is June 17, 2009.

Question: In which town is the Dockside Outlet?

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'The most needy place on Earth'

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A CLERGYMAN has just returned from a programme in Uganda working with poor and distressed families – and says more help is desperately needed.

The Rev Kenneth Berkin runs the registered charity Friends of North Kigezi Diocese from his base in Hythe.

He said: "I am the chair of trustees of a small Kent-based Christian charity set up in 2005 to reach out to orphans and poor and distressed families in an area known as North Kigezi, situated in the south western corner of the country.

"My work takes me to this part of the world for a third of my life, where I work as an ordained priest in the Church of Uganda.

"Our diocese covers an area with a population of some 300,000 people situated in small rural communities where life is unbelievably difficult to bear. No safe water or sanitation exists in these villages and education has to be paid for from secondary school onwards."

He said the areas they operate in are some of the most needy on the planet and require constant assistance.

Mr Berkin said the work they do is vital to keep many people alive and give them a chance to make something of themselves. He said: "Living in an area where a good wage is the equivalent of £30 per month, if you can get a job, means so very many children never get any schooling or drop out at the age of 11. I work in our diocesan office in the main town of Rukungiri reporting to my Bishop the Right Rev Dr Edward Muhima.

HOPE: A sponsored child gathers firewood in North Kigezi, Uganda

"My ministry is to work in rural communities and bring some relief wherever possible to their daily trauma of existing.

"Our charity has decided its mission is to bring practical solutions at an affordable price to this much neglected part of Uganda.

"We have embarked on many programmes of rainwater harvesting, provision of rural corn mills, individual sponsorship for our many orphaned children, the setting up of a community farm so that all poor villagers can have their own plot of land and a new care and community centre where distressed orphans and families suffering domestic abuse can come for shelter and counselling.

"We are constantly looking for sponsors for our children, donors for our care and counselling centre and volunteers who want to come and join us to do some practical based work in our loving but rural community."

Anyone interested in getting further information on the work the diocese does can contact Mr Berkin 01303 261854 or ken.berkin@ntlworld.com.

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Stripping back through time

History books torn up after building work reveals secret

FIND: Rupert Austin says new discoveries will change our ideas of how the city looked

A HIDDEN past of Canterbury is being revealed for the first time in centuries as workmen at the old Boots store strip back the modern day veneers – and now the history books will have to be rewritten, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

They are literally taking the wraps off one of the most recognised buildings in Canterbury, now known to be one of the city's oldest dwellings, with parts dating back to the early medieval period.

The old Boots the Chemist building on the corner of Mercery Lane and The Parade is being developed into shops and eight apartments looking out to Canterbury Cathedral. It is located at the most important crossroads in Canterbury.

The newly named Mercery Court has been carefully scrutinised by Canterbury Archaeology Trust's senior building recording officer, Rupert Austin, working alongside Canterbury City Council's principal conservation officer Clive Bowley.

As workmen shave off the 20th century plaster and coverings of what was once a thriving shop, history experts are increasingly open-mouthed at what is being revealed.

It has not been an easy job thanks to the numerous alterations undertaken over the years, including the major work carried out by Boots to save the building when it was in danger of collapsing in 1931.

When Boots finally moved out in 2005, an archaeological appraisal was carried out, but much of the historic fabric of the building was hidden by later plaster, and shop fittings.

Felled

It was not until the site was bought by GO Canterbury LLP and the developer Glengate Developments started to strip back the layers to expose the original beams and the surviving medieval walls that the actual history of some of Canterbury's key buildings was revealed.

A comprehensive survey by the Canterbury Archaeology Trust of the historic parts of the building, commissioned by the new owner, has enabled a record of detailed drawings and photographs of areas and materials that have not been seen for generations.

Mr Austin said: "One of the most exciting parts of my job is being the first one to see the fabric of a building which has not been seen for a long period of time, then finding the clues to understand what it might have looked like and start unravelling its history.

"We were pleasantly surprised to see just how much of this historic building has survived and we are now working on collating this new information and updating our historic records."

Tree-ring dating in some of the oldest part of the buildings has confirmed that the timber used in construction was felled around 1345.

Another surprise was the discovery that the roof of the building had looked completely different to what had been thought.

Mr Austin said: "I previously assumed the roof had been 'hipped', meaning it had sloping ends rather than gables, but I have now discovered evidence showing there had in fact been a series of gables running down Mercery Lane. This would have been impressive to look at.

"More than 20 years ago we drew a reconstruction of what we thought the centre of medieval Canterbury looked like. We will now have to revise this drawing."

Clive Bowley is now ensuring the historic parts of the building are preserved.

He said: "Unravelling the history is like putting clothes on the body of the building. The trick is understanding what is going on and working with this.

"We have worked hard with the Archaeological Trust and the developer's architects to ensure the historic elements of this iconic building are repaired authentically."

Where the building has distorted and dropped owing to rot over the years, the structure has now been painstakingly repaired with matching materials.

Mr Bowley praised the positive attitude shown by Glengate Developments in working hard to protect the history of the building, despite the considerable final costs of the building project.

And he added: "We have another bit of the jigsaw puzzle of how Canterbury was. It is very exciting."

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By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

FINGERS CROSSED: David Pybus of Scents of Time and Niki Pearson, owner of Ecorium are shortlisted for our £1 million giveaway

Pair 'scents' an opportunity to raise awareness

A MODERN day alchemist and an ethical businesswoman have revealed why a share of KOS Media's £1 million Business Challenge is so important for their ventures.

David Pybus' company Scents of Time, which offers customers 'bottled history', and Ecorium, a natural skincare emporium owned by Niki Pearson, are among the 80 shortlisted entries in the award-winning publisher's largest ever competition.

The Kent Business Challenge 2009 was launched in response to the economic downturn and more than £1m of advertising, marketing and PR is up for grabs.

More than 300 Kent-based businesses, charities and organisations entered the competition hoping for success in one of the 10 categories.

"I applied for the challenge because I think my business is quite unique – it is completely ethical, not just the products I sell, but the way I went about setting it up," Ms Pearson said.

"It is really hard to get that message across so any help I could be given with that would be an amazing opportunity.

"In the current climate people are not bothered so much about being green, organic and ethical, other things are a bit more pressing. So, it would be great to bring my little shop to a wider audience."

Canterbury-based Ecorium offers a range of skincare, make-up, haircare and mother and baby products made from natural ingredients, but without the usual price tag associated with the organic market.

Prices range from £5 to 30.

Ms Pearson became particularly interested in natural products after her husband suffered a bad motorcycle accident and was taking a lot of drugs each day to keep him alive.

She said: "When I started looking at what goes into skincare I was really shocked," she said and decided to find natural products for her husband so that no more chemicals were going into his body. "I've always been interested in the ethical side of life. I don't believe you have to trample roughshod over everyone in business for it to be successful."

Mr Pybus' business concept came to fruition after he won £80,000 from Dragon's Den business gurus Theo Paphitis and Peter Jones in exchange for 40 per cent of his company after starring in the popular BBC programme.

Although people might not think he needs a share of the prize fund, he said: "The reality of Dragon's Den is that you get the money and very little else. You get very little support.

"It is about product awareness. I'm not Chanel or Dior – the product is great, the concept is marvellous, but I'm up against these big names. It is like David and Goliath taking on these big guys and it is difficult to raise awareness of the brand and the product."

His business concept is certainly fascinating – recreating the scents worn in ancient Egypt, the fated city of Pompeii and the Maya civilisation in Mexico.

Mr Pybus works alongside archaeologists to find clues and evidence that provide the basis of his recreation of these lost fragrances into luxury perfumes for today.

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Double dosage of Noble comedy

By CHRIS MURPHY

KENT'S funniest academic will be interviewing one of the world's best comics on stage – and the show has already almost sold out.

Ross Noble will be taking a break from entertaining crowds around the world to appear at the 330-seater Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury.

He will be on stage being interviewed by Dr Oliver Double, who is not only a former stand-up comedian himself, but is now an author and is based at the School of Drama, Film and Visual Arts at the University of Kent.

Dr Double said: "Ross is well known for simply making up his act as he goes along – it is quite incredible how good he is. I am not such a master and have been working hard to research as much as I can about him, so I don't miss anything out.

"Ross is a great comic, and I am sure there will be plenty of things to laugh at on the night."

The whole interview is being professionally filmed too, and is set to be a part of Noble's next DVD.

Dr Double said: "Ross is a bit like Eddie Izzard. He has forged a big following mainly by doing a lot of live work and is now one of the leading live stand-ups in Britain.

"A high proportion of what he does is improvisation. It comes directly from talking to people in the front row. He is also remarkable because he started out doing stand-up in the 1990s when he was just 15.

"He was nominated for a Perrier Award in 1999 – he is a phenomenal act.

"This event has been set up by him. I met him when he was starting out and we know each other.

"Ross has five DVDs out now and they are all good models on how to put out material like that.

"I will be using some of his work in the lecture room because he is so good at what he does. They are themed and have tons of extra features. He puts a lot of work into everything he does and that makes him interesting to teach about."

Dr Double has a history in comedy. Before becoming an academic, he was a professional stand-up comedian on the national alternative comedy circuit and a member of Red Grape Cabaret.

He used to be in charge of The Last Laugh, Sheffield's longest-running comedy club and has been on Radio 4's Loose Ends.

Ross Noble will be interviewed live on the Gulbenkian Theatre stage by Dr Oliver Double on Sunday, June 7, at 7.45pm with tickets costing £5. The booking office is on 01227 769075 or visit www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

FUNNY MEN: Dr Oliver Double, above, will be interviewing comedian Ross Noble, left

Cancer patients urged to talk about their love lives

CANCER patients whose ill health is destroying their sex lives are being encouraged to speak up about the issue.

Victims of the wide-ranging disease can suffer both physically and mentally as a result of their treatment, but the effect on their sexual relationships is a topic rarely discussed.

The Macmillan Cancer Support charity aims to change all this with a new campaign, with health organisations throughout Kent lending their support.

Sarah Bucknell, lead nurse for chemotherapy service at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, educates the nurses she trains to initiate the topic with their patients early on, but admits it is not common practice among many.

She said: "It's just not discussed and this is a big area of concern for me.

"Often nurses don't bring it up because they think patients will mention it if they're concerned, and patients don't bring it up because they feel awkward or don't think they should.

"So we have a huge chasm in the middle and I think this is wrong because we live in such a sexually-explicit society these days that there is no need to sweep it under the carpet."

According to a Macmillan survey, one in seven cancer patients said they separated from their partner as a result of their ill health and half of those who were single said they had been put off starting a new relationship.

It also found that two-thirds of sufferers had not spoken to their doctor about the issue, nor been offered any advice.

Senior cancer information nurse Stuart Danskin said: "Cancer can leave a lasting impact on a person long after treatment ends. People usually think of the hair loss and other side effects of cancer, but often it is how it affects a person's feelings about themselves that can be most distressing.

"It can leave people's confidence shattered and body image low, and make it psychologically or physically difficult to have sex at all."

Macmillan's campaign has won the backing of agony aunts Deidre Sanders and Denise Robertson.

Both are offering their advice on the issue of cancer and sexual relationships online at www.macmillan.org.uk/sex.

Visit www.macmillan.org.uk/sex for more information or call the charity's free CancerLine on 0808 800 1234 to talk to a nurse.

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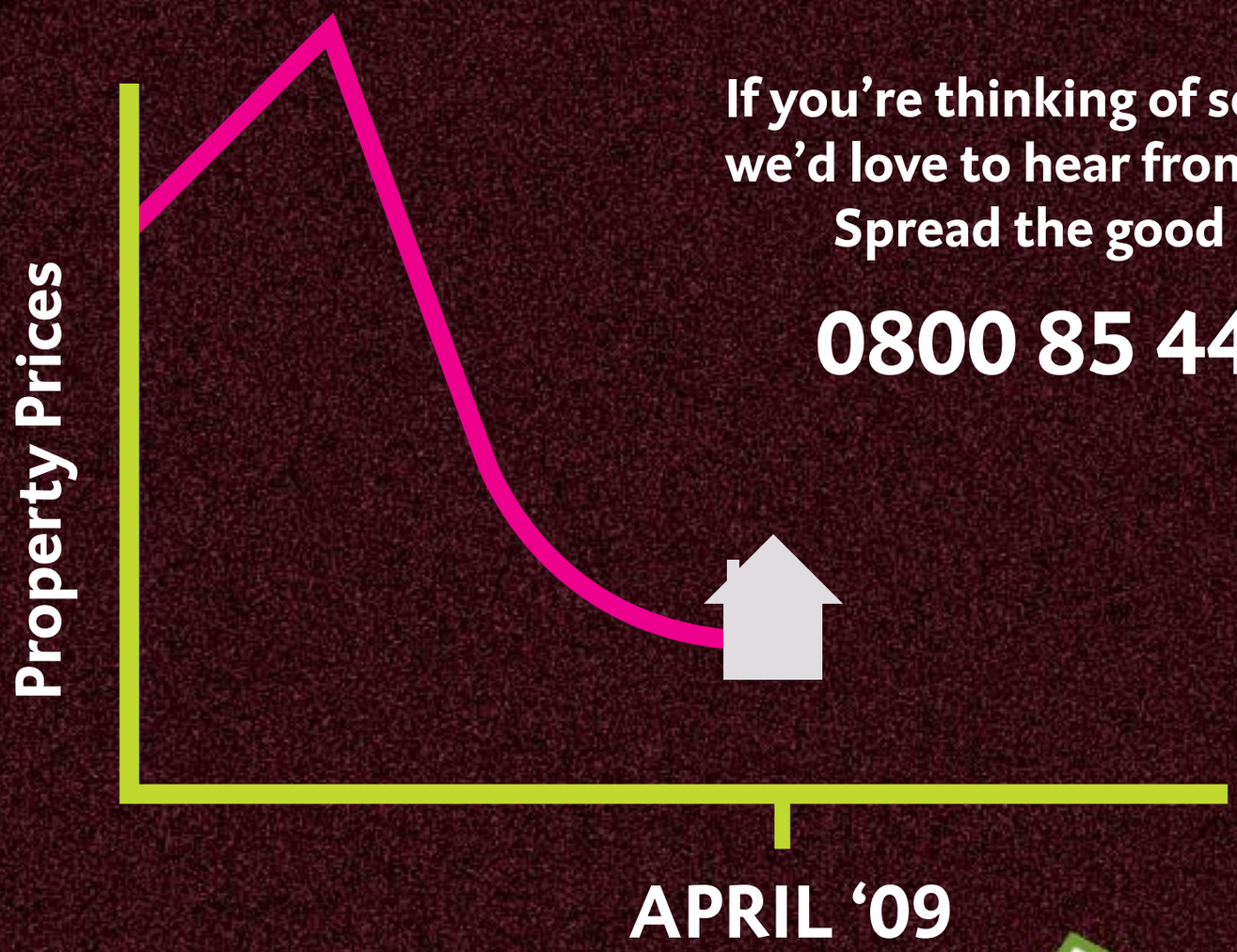

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Who's your greatest all-time Kent personality?

We need your help to find top 100 finest

FROM legendary authors and historical figures to modern day rock stars and sporting heroes, many great men and women have called Kent home.

Whether it's for writing books that millions still read today, or for striking gold at the Olympic Games, these much-loved figures will forever be remembered for the pride they have given to the county.

So to celebrate the achievements of past and present heroes like Charles Dickens and Kelly Homes, KOS Media is compiling Kent's Top 100 All-Time Greatest People list and is looking for suggestions from our readers.

Who do you think deserves to be recognised in this countdown of the county's finest?

Should it be restricted to people like former Downe resident Charles Darwin, whose theory of evolution changed the way we see the world?

Or is there still a place for local heroes like Andy Hessenthaler, who spent 10 years as both player and manager at Gillingham FC and is now enjoying success in charge of Dover Athletic?

One man with a strong claim for a place on the list is legendary former Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, who bought Chartwell House in Westerham before to leading the Allies to victory in World War Two.

CHOICES: Mick Jagger, HG Wells, Anton du Beke, Quentin Blake and Andy Hessenthaler are amongst the many options

Several centuries earlier but just a few miles away, Anne Boleyn was busy courting King Henry VIII from her Hever Castle home and perhaps deserves a spot on the countdown for her notoriety alone as "one of the beheaded wives".

A far less regal yet equally well-known Kent personality is Mick Jagger, who along with his former Dartford school friend Keith Richards formed one of the most successful rock bands in the world – the Rolling Stones.

Few people realise that Enid Blyton also lived in the county for a time, albeit long before she went on to become one of the most popular children's authors of all time.

The creator of such well-known characters as Noddy and The Famous Five went to St Christopher's School in Beckenham, Bromley, and left in 1915 as head girl.

Most of these names are recognised throughout the world, but there are other less famous people who perhaps also deserve a place on our countdown.

John Morton, for instance, is a professor at the University of Greenwich at Medway, and was last year awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his pioneering work on climate change.

And then there is Folkestone's own Walter Tull, who in the early 20th century became Britain's first black outfield football player as well as its first black Army officer, before being killed in action aged just 29.

There are, of course, plenty of other deserving individuals not mentioned here, many of whom will not be household names, and we would like to know who you think should be on Kent's Top 100 All-Time Greatest People list.

Post your suggestions to KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SR or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

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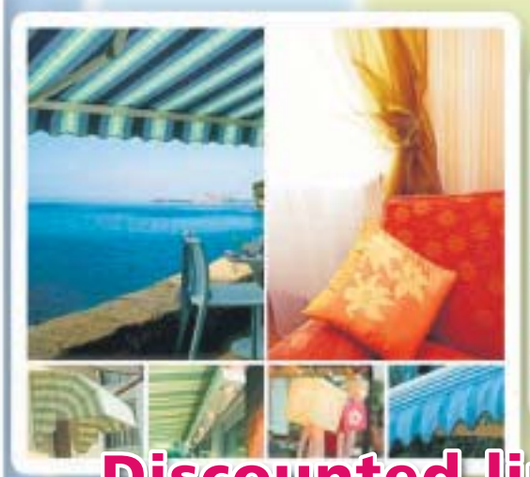

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Duke switches Hever Castle onto a greener 21st century

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Duke of Kent was in the county to reveal a new greener Hever Castle.

The 12th century tourist attraction is famous for being the childhood home of Anne Boleyn.

But it has now adopted a 21st century approach to becoming more environmentally friendly and energy efficient.

The Duke officially switched on Hever's energy efficient biomass boiler, which replaces the old inefficient oil-fired and LPG boilers with a new 650KW woodchip boiler.

This uses woodchip waste from local sawmills to create heating and hot water for the castle, the Moat Restaurant, the Hever Shop and even 14 residential properties locally.

It is thanks to a £139,000 grant from the Department of Energy and Climatic Change, plus a £100,000 Carbon Trust loan along with an estate investment of £460,000.

Now 80 per cent of the castle's hot water and heating requirements will become renewable, saving approximately 390 tonnes of carbon dioxide in emissions a year.

The woodchip fuel is made locally from sawmill waste and poor quality timber, and will of course include timber from the Hever estate.

With haulage being carried out by local contractors, Hever Castle is minimising transport miles and diverting money originally spent on fossil fuels into the local community.

Duncan Leslie, chief executive of Hever Castle, said: "We're making a commitment to being greener while, at the same time, reducing fuel bills.

"We're making the castle as energy self-sufficient as possible without spoiling the attraction."

The money sounds a lot, but Hever said £150,000 of it is attributed to the boiler, plus there was a need for a new shed to house it 300 metres away from the castle itself, and two 20,000 litre buffer tanks which store hot water to be circulated around the castle estate using a network of super-insulated pipe work.

The residential properties are all individually metered so Hever can monitor heat usage throughout the site.

Hever Castle has a history of energy initiatives. When William Waldorf Astor bought the castle in 1903, he spent five years restoring and improving the castle, ensuring it was totally self-sufficient, with its own coal-fired power station and private water supply.

When Mr Leslie joined Hever Castle as chief executive in 2006, he had a similar vision. But he not only wanted to make the castle energy self-sufficient, he was also keen to becoming greener while reducing the ever-rising cost of fuel bills.

ON THE BOIL: Inset L-R Clive Manning from Hever, HRH the Duke of Kent and Mr Guthrie at the switching on of the green energy system at Hever Castle (main picture)

Kent's Monopoly finalist to miss Vegas showdown

MONOPOLY master David Hudson's chances of picking up a £13,000 prize went bankrupt when he lost in the UK championship finals.

The chartered surveyor from Bromley was one of 15 Brits battling it out for a place in the world finals of the competition, which will be held later this year in Las Vegas with the monster jackpot at stake.

And despite failing to qualify for the money-spinning event, the 58-year-old said he was not prepared to hang up his sports car-shaped playing piece just yet.

Fun day

Mr Hudson said: "I won my first game but lost the next two, but it was a fun day out nevertheless. I didn't get the luck or the right properties, and I didn't get in the right positions to make many deals.

"But these tournaments take place every four years, so I'll be up for the next one and hopefully I'll make it to the world finals."

Mr Hudson said he found out about this year's competition on the internet but had actually played in it on a number of occasions in the past – the last time being in 1987.

He said: "I reached the final game of the UK championships three times, but I've lost on each occasion too."

According to the game's manufacturer Hasbro, Monopoly is the most-played board game in the world, with more than 750 million people having picked up a community chest card or been sent directly to jail.

The first of 11 Monopoly world championship tournaments took place in Washington DC in 1973, with Spain's Antonio Fernandez the reigning title-holder. Tuesday's UK finals were held at London's Mayfair Hotel.

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- **Accommodation:** 4 nights sharing a twin or double bedded standard chalet - upgrades available
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool, sauna, jacuzzi
- **Travel:** Car ferry included

Warner Free Bar Christmas Party

Lakeside, Hayling Island

3 NIGHTS FROM £179pp

JUST FOR ADULTS

Friday, December 18 to 21, 2009
Tour **LK12-MIR**

Celebrate Christmas early on Hayling island, near Portsmouth. Food and entertainment for this party break will have a festive feel and we've included a **Free Bar** every evening.

PRICE INCLUDES:
- **Free Bar** from 6pm to 11pm every evening (not departure day). Drinks include house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee
- **Live cabaret entertainment every evening**
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Warner Free Bar Christmas Party

Cricket St Thomas, Somerset

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Tour **CT12-MIR**

Cricket St Thomas is a superb country mansion which was the location for TV's *To the Manor Born*. During the day you can enjoy the landscaped gardens and Wildlife Park, and in the evening there's live entertainment and a **Free Bar**.

PRICE INCLUDES:
- **Free Bar** from 6pm to 11pm every day (not departure day). Drinks include house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee
- **Live cabaret entertainment every evening**
- **Meals:** 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing a twin or double bedded Ambassador room - upgrades available
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool, sauna, jacuzzi

Warner Free Bar Carry on Christmas Party

Littlecote House, Berkshire

2 NIGHTS FROM £169pp

JUST FOR ADULTS

Saturday, January 2 to 4, 2010
Tour **LX1-MIR**

Extend the festive season into the new year with Christmas dinner & New Year's Eve entertainment included. There's a Free Bar both days and plenty of leisure facilities at the superb Tudor Mansion where Henry VIII once wooed Jane Seymour.

PRICE INCLUDES:
- **Free Bar** from 3.30pm to 11pm on the first day and 12noon to 11pm on second day. Drinks include house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee
- **Live cabaret entertainment every evening**
- **Meals:** 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 2 nights sharing a twin or double bedded Ambassador room - upgrades available
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool, sauna, jacuzzi, fitness studio

Warner Free Bar Party & Dance Break

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Friday, January 15 to 18, 2010
Tour **BW1-MIR**

Our Bembridge Party & Dance break was a sell-out in 2009 and, due to popular demand, we're doing it all again in 2010. There will be Ballroom and Latin dancing, dance tuition for beginners and improvers, top dancers in cabaret and a **Free Bar** every day.

PRICE INCLUDES:
- **FREE drinks** from 15.30hrs to 23:00hrs on Friday and 12.00hrs to 23.00hrs on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include tea/coffee, pumped soft drinks & mixers, wine by the glass, house beers & spirits.
- **Full programme of entertainment and dancing** including top dancers in Cabaret & dance tuition
- **Meals:** 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing a twin or double bedded Ambassador room - upgrades available
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Jun 12	Lakeside, Hayling Island**	3	£184	£139
Jun 12	Littlecote House, Berkshire	3	£304	£229
Jun 12	Thoresby Hall, Nottinghamshire	3	£309	£239
Jun 19	Holme Lacy, Herefordshire	3	£294	£225
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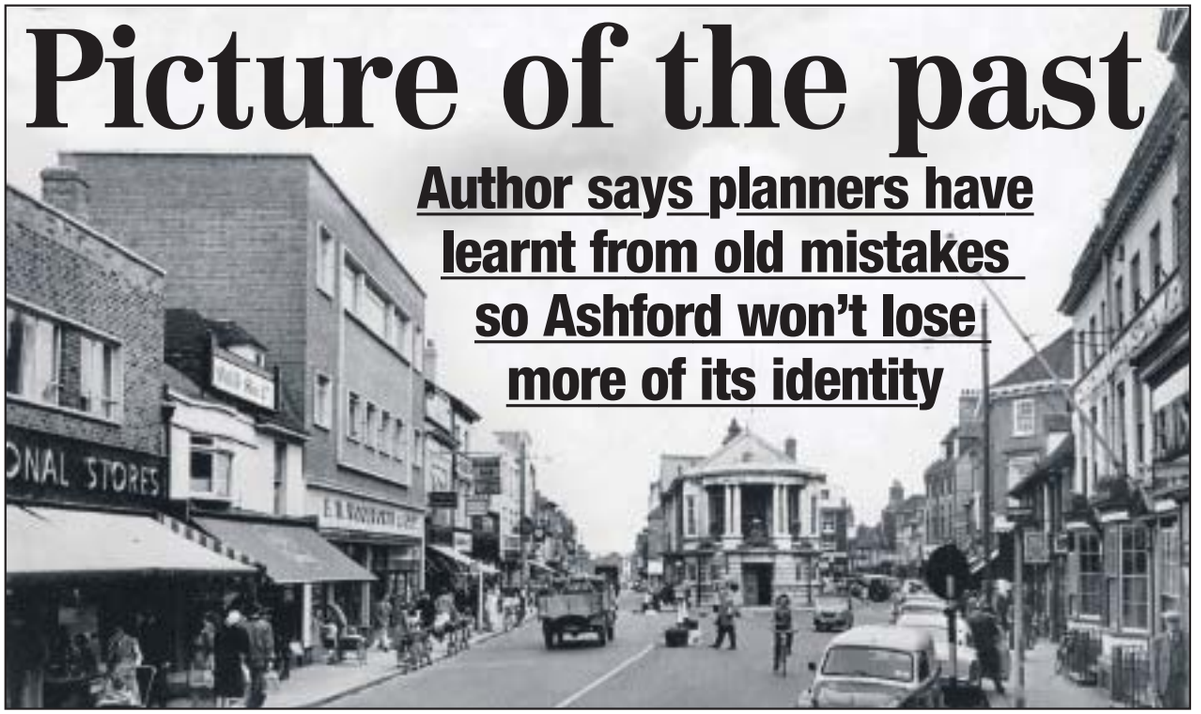
ABTA Y0291

By JENNA PUDELEK
jennaa.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Picture of the past

Author says planners have learnt from old mistakes so Ashford won't lose more of its identity



TODAY'S planners must learn from the unsympathetic redevelopment of a town in the 1960s and 70s, a local historian has urged.

In his fifth book exploring the modern history of Ashford, Steve Salter takes a nostalgic look at his hometown over the past 60 years, from a time when its streets were awash with independent shops, using more than 300 previously unseen images.

The 35-year-old began researching the history of Ashford as a 10-year-old boy and now has an archive of 250,000 photographs of the town.

"What interests me is the changing face of the town," he said. "I'm an Ashford boy and that has been a real feature in my lifetime and even before.

"The year I was born, 1974, was a key year in the town's history. The ring road was brought in and they knocked a lot of houses and businesses down.

"Ashford did not escape lightly under the compulsory purchase laws and a lot of stuff got knocked down and architectural gems were lost for good. The planners of the 1960s and 70s got away with murder."

Bull-dozed

In his latest book, Remembering Ashford, the author includes a selection of photographs of old shops that were popular in pre-ring road days, but were bulldozed after the town was first labelled a designated growth area.

"All in all, Ashford could not have stayed the way it was," Mr Salter said.

"It was pulled apart in the Sixties and Seventies because of the growth and it was designed as a growth town back then.

"In 1959 an agreement was signed between what was then Ashford Urban District Council and London County Council for so many homes in the London overspill agreement.

"Basically, Ashford had to grow but it has not always grown gracefully in all aspects."

Comparisons can easily be drawn to current plans for Ashford, which is set to double in size by 2033.

However, Mr Salter believes this time round the lessons of the past have been learnt. He said: "It is not the council of today that have caused the problems of today.

"They have looked at the areas of the town such as the churchyard and North Street and taken a stance not to touch them.

"The councillors have indicated the conservation areas in various parts of the town will not be built on. That decision should have been taken years ago."

One building that lost an unusual architectural feature as a result of unsympathetic development was the Methodist church in Bank Street.

In Mr Salter's book he notes next to a picture of the building from 1962 that the local council "sinfully" allowed developers to remove its beehive-style porches in 1969 replacing them with "unsightly" Sixties-style brick wings.

He said it was vital that such mistakes did not continue, and added: "The council's slogan 'Ashford best placed in Britain' would become 'Ashford the town with no identity'.

"If the stance had not been taken with conservation areas protected then it would be without any identity so they [planners] have to be careful."

Remembering Ashford is published by The History Press and costs £12.99.

• ***Steve Salter will be signing copies of his book at Waterstone's, Ashford, on Saturday, June 6, from 10am-6pm.***

TIMES GONE BY: Top: Upper High Street, 1955, showing a time when pedestrians had to share the town centre with vehicles and also the popularity of cycling; above, Park Road 1966 Cherry's grocers, which closed in the early 1970s and was finally demolished in 1985 to make way for the Park Mall Shopping Centre; right, Bank Street 1962, the Methodist church in its original state before the loss of its beehive-style porches

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Map of the seabed may save Channel

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SCIENTISTS at the University of Kent are starting the final steps in fully mapping the seabed of the Dover Strait.

It will help the experts and lawmakers to try and make the right decisions to protect its ecology.

Aggregates for the building industry and fishing are two major businesses using the Channel's resources and it is vital these are not over-exploited, said the scientists.

It comes as a American survey team found serious trawler damage to the ancient wreckage of the British warship HMS Victory, which was destroyed in a storm in the 18th century.

The European Regional Development Fund has given almost £5m for the mapping work to be completed.

It will be the final of three phases of the mapping project which is called CHARM, or Channel Habitat Atlas for Marine Resource Management.

The project will be headed by the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, known as DICE, at the University of Kent.

ABOVE: The four-tonne bronze cannon from HMS Victory, right, lies on the seabed. LEFT: Fishing nets snagged across the interior of a German sub sunk in 1945

Picture: LOSS OF HMS VICTORY, OCTOBER 4, 1744 BY PETER MONAMY

Red mullet

The work is important because the results will become the best reference source when an organisation needs to know what's going on under the waters. They can easily discover everything there is to know about the Channel's marine environment.

The atlas will provide decision-makers with vital information to help in the management of marine ecosystems and living resources, including 16 fish species, such as red mullet, black seabream, flounder, plaice, Atlantic herring, Atlantic cod and common sole.

The work started in 2004, when DICE led a series of Anglo-French projects to create the atlas containing all known data relating to the English Channel's marine biological resources.

This is essential for the protection of the ecosystems and marine resources, which are presently suffering the consequences of decline in certain fish species.

The first phase covered the eastern Channel with the second taking in the middle.

Now with the funding in place, DICE is examining the entire Channel seabed in detail.

Stuart Harrop is a professor of wildlife management law at DICE and project leader of the previous two phases of CHARM. He said: "The English Channel is the world's most crowded shipping lane and also contains vital marine and other extractive resources, such as gravel and aggregate, which are of great economic importance to Europe.

"Policies and laws in this context relating to fisheries, resource use, water quality, pollution and shipping derive from international and European Union sources in addition to UK and French regulation.

"With all of these pressures, close and informed collaboration between the UK and France in this complex geographical and regulatory area is vital to protect the Channel's resources.

"The atlas is a single and dynamic source designed to present regulators, policymakers and researchers with most of the information required to enable the resources of the English Channel to be utilised sustainably and thus to be maintained for future generations."

He said DICE staff will play a key role in examining strategies in the Channel and "assessing European fisheries polices and regulation in the light of existing law, and implementation of law and policy, by both France and the UK". DICE said it is dedicated to undertaking research necessary to conserve biodiversity and the functioning ecosystems upon which people depend. It has trained postgraduates from more than 75 different countries with many now in influential positions in conservation.

Bulldozers

One major concern is possible damage being done by trawlers to the 1744 wreck of HMS Victory. American treasure hunters who found the remains of the ship last year issued the warning after seeing the damage.

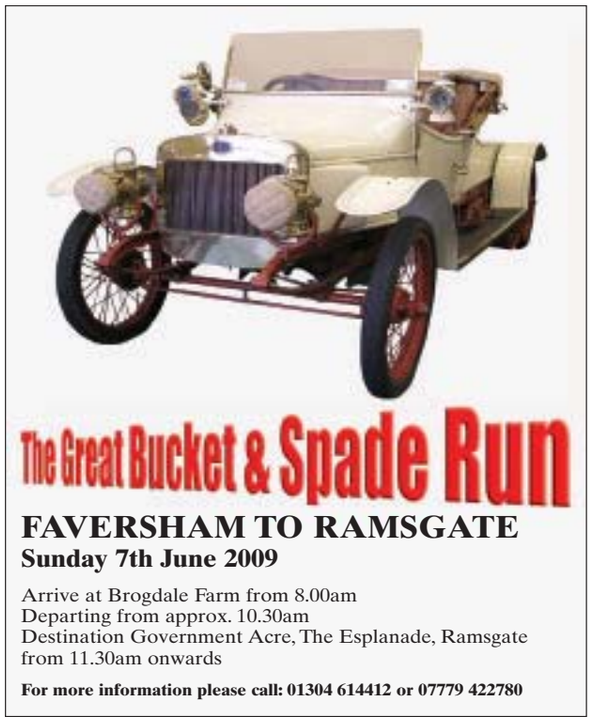
Reaction to the impact on the vessel is damning.

Greg Stemm, chief executive of Odyssey Marine Exploration, said: "We were shocked and surprised by the degree of damage we found in the Channel.

"When we got into this business, like everyone else we thought that beyond 50-60 metres, below the reach of divers, we'd find pristine shipwrecks. We thought we'd be finding a rainforest, but instead found an industrial site criss-crossed by bulldozers and trucks."

The company has surveyed almost 5,000 square miles of the western Channel bed and found 267 wrecks of which 112 have been damaged by bottom-trawling for fish.

HMS Victory has nets and cables snagged around cannon and ballast blocks. Three bronze cannon were displaced. A 42-pounder weighing four tonnes was dragged 55m and flipped upside down.



THOUSANDS of painted lady butterflies have been arriving in Kent this week after a 1,000-mile migration from the Atlas mountains of Morocco.

This stunning picture was captured by Gerry Costa after two dozen of the butterflies landed in his Walmer garden. If you would like to see your photo of the county

images of Kent

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£40,000 attack on bowls club by trio

THREE teenagers have been arrested after more than £40,000 of damage left a bowling club unusable.

Police said the "significant damage" was caused after the shed at Maidstone Bowling Club was broken into. Oil and line paint was emptied onto the grass and holes were dug into the turf.

Three boys aged 14, 15 and 16 were arrested on Bank Holiday Monday after the incident overnight last Friday. The trio have been released on bail until June 6.

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SeaFrance worker jumps for heroes

A SEAFRANCE employee has made a tandem parachute jump to raise money for Help The Heroes.

Barry Bickley fell at speeds of 180mph to raise £672 for the charity that helps people injured while serving in the Armed Forces.

Just before the jump, Barry heard that a friend had been badly injured by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

He said: "It gave me an even bigger incentive, to think that my parachute jump was going to raise money to help the recovery process for people like him.

"The jump was the equivalent of falling down a 20-storey building in a second.

"It was mind-blowing, really, although I didn't really notice the speed until I saw the ground getting nearer.

"It was quite a change from the day job."

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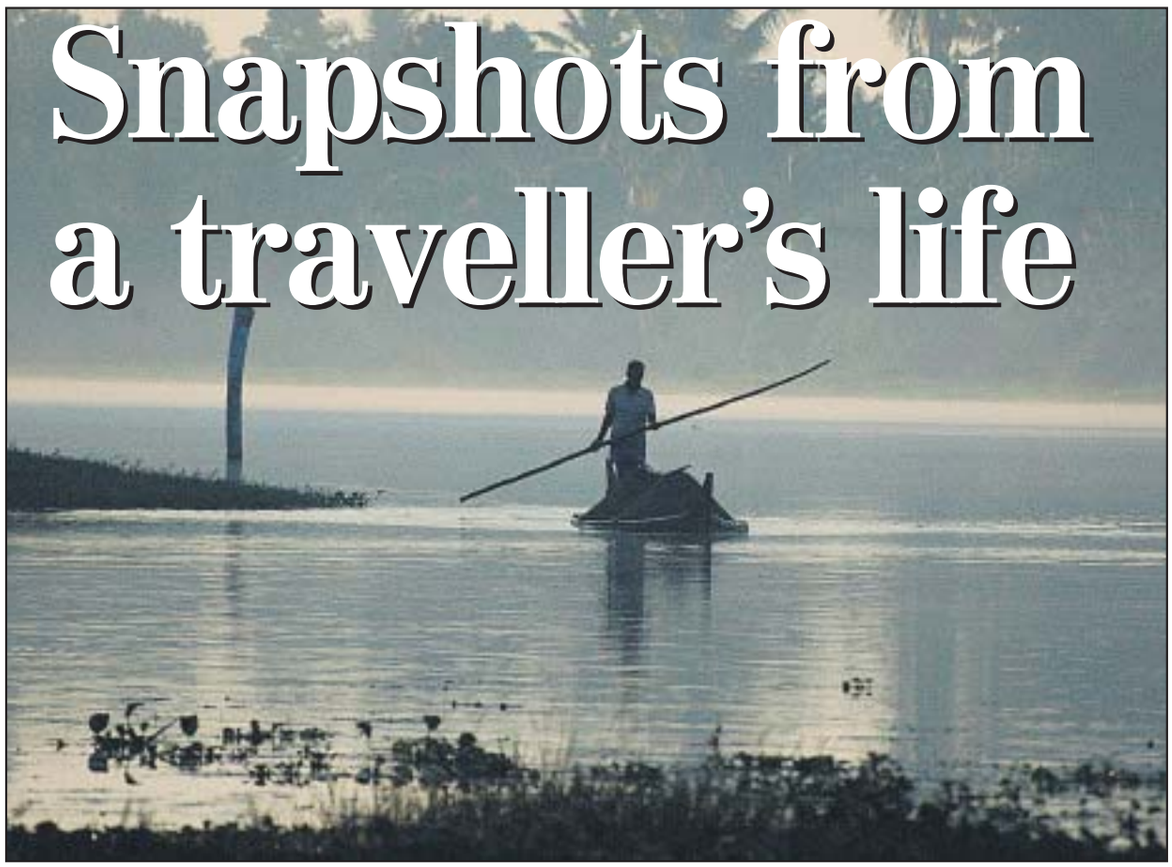


By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A FORMER Liberal MP turned photographer has spent the last half a century capturing images of his travels around a diverse range of locations from north Wales to north Africa.

Bill Pitt, who lives in Broadstairs, chose 50 photographs to appear in an exhibition of his work, Around the World in 50 Years, out of more than 9,000 slides, and a similar number of digital images made since 2004.

He said: "This show isn't a 'world tour' and you'll find very few conventional world travel pictures among the collection.

"The images are of what took my fancy and what I thought might reflect the place or the atmosphere of the country I was in at the time.

"Some of my visits were just 'in and out' – I spent only three days with the Polisario (in Western Sahara) for example – and some were longer, including a whole month in India."

Mr Pitt, 72, had never been further than the Isle of Wight before he met his wife, Janet, in 1959, whom he married two years later.

The young couple started travelling, firstly around the UK and then to Europe, including Germany, Austria and Yugoslavia, which included experiencing the contrast of the communist state of East Germany in the early Sixties.

"In the early 1980s, I became the Liberal MP for Croydon North West and I went on a couple of Parliamentary visits to Canada and it just built up from there," he said.

The photographer's travels began to extend to more far-flung places such as Kenya, Morocco, Egypt and China.

"One of the images in the exhibition is of a dead body that I saw during a Parliamentary visit to the Polisario in the Western Sahara," he said.

The Polisario Front, which is an independence movement for the Western Sahara, has been involved in an ongoing conflict over the disputed land for 36 years.

A UN-brokered ceasefire was agreed with Morocco in 1991 but a promised referendum on self-determination has never materialised.

A more recent 'round the world' three-month tour saw the couple spend time in Borneo, New Zealand, Australia, the west coast of America, and India.

"The picture of the orang-utan is from a refuge in Sepilok [northern Borneo]. They have this rope that leads into the jungle. But if the orang-utans want to come back to the centre they pull along the rope," Mr Pitt said.

He said he is also interested in architecture and one striking image is of the beautiful Jardin Majorelle in Marrakesh, which belonged to the French artist Jacques Majorelle until his death in 1962.

The gardens were bought and restored by Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent in 1980.

Asked to choose his favourite trip, Mr Pitt said: "I was rather taken by the Masai Mara, although I haven't chosen any photographs from there for the exhibition. It was very peaceful and tranquil.

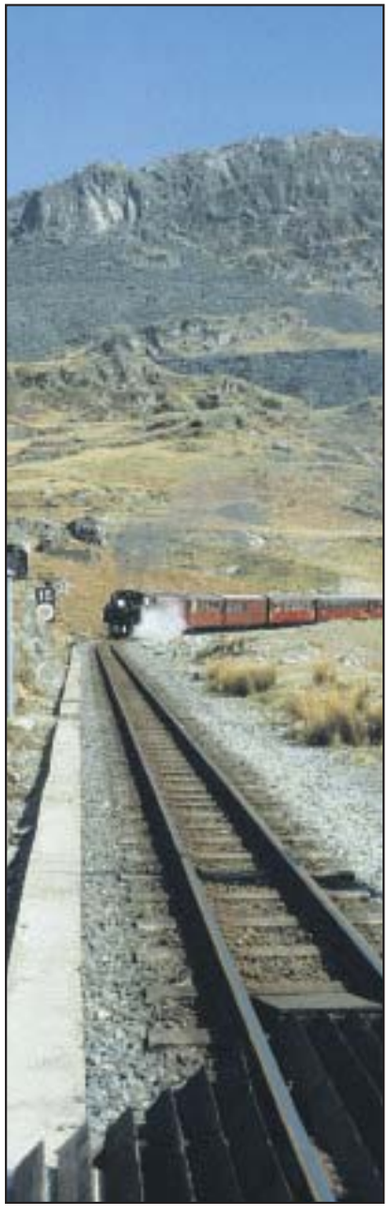
"Flying down the Nile in a hot air balloon was amazing and looking out over the temples. To be honest I haven't got one place – I love seeing countries, diverse countries."

Mr Pitt and his sculptor wife will be staying closer to home on their next trip when they visit friends in France, but are already planning their next round the world tour.

• ***View the exhibition at the Belgian Café in Harbour Parade, Ramsgate.***

SAIL AWAY: Top, a boatman in the Kerala backwaters, India, 2006; above, a balloon over ancient temples in Egypt, 2009; and above right, a young orang-utan in Borneo taken in 2004

New exhibition captures 50 years of exotic journeys made by former MP turned photographer, Bill Pitt



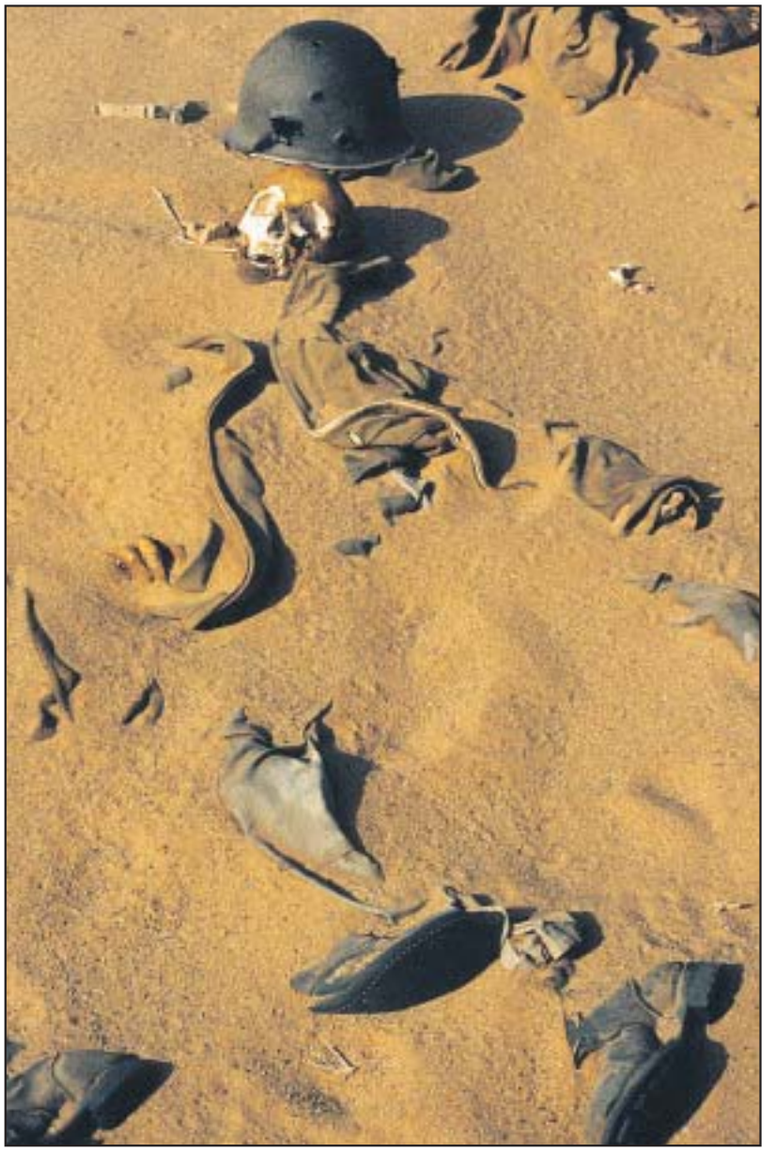


IMAGE OF DEATH; Above, a body taken on a trip with the Polisario in Western Sahara 1982; above left, Ffestiniog railway 1959; and below, Jardin Majorelle, Marakesh, 2008

Armed robber in escape by bicycle

A GUN-TOTING robber made off with more than £1,000 in cash after holding up a Gillingham bank.

The lone gunman struck at the NatWest Bank in Watling Street at 2.30pm on Wednesday, demanding cash from the terrified staff. He then left the bank and escaped on a mountain bike hidden in an alley.

A police spokesman said: "The offender had his face covered but is a white man, aged between 20 and 30 years old, of slim build and between 5ft 7in and 5ft 11in.

"He was wearing a dark woollen hat with a peak, a dark scarf over his nose and mouth, a dark long-sleeved coat, possibly with a white stripe down each arm and white trainers.

Anyone with information call Kent Police on 01634 792642 or e-mail amet.medway@-kent.pnn.police.uk. Or call Kent CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Baby dies in crash

A BABY boy has died after a crash in Challock on Tuesday. The Red Fiat Punto was being driven by the child's mother, who is from Faversham, when it collided with a tree and overturned.

The car was travelling in Buck Street along the A251 at 6.55pm when the accident happened. The eighth-month-old child was taken to the William Harvey Hospital and then transferred Kings Hospital in London, where he died the next day. The mother sustained minor injuries in the accident.

The police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit is keen to talk to any wtnesses. They can be contacted on 01622 798 538.

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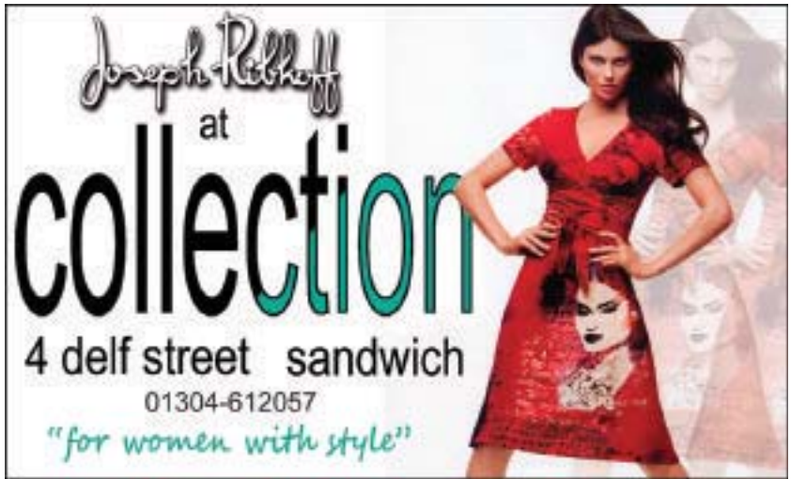

'We are determined to make police force better'

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE latest additions to the top team of the county's constabulary have spoken of their ambition to make the force one of the country's best.

Assistant Chief Constables Alan Pughsley and Andy Adams said they were attracted to Kent Police because of the force's ambition and forward-looking attitude.

Mr Pughsley, 43, has been working as borough commander in Lewisham, south east London, where he was responsible for hitting national crime reduction targets and improving public confidence.

His experience in the Metropolitan Police, which he joined in 1994, leading murder investigations, tackling armed robbery, firearms and drug-related crimes will be vital in his new job heading the serious organised crime department in Kent.

"I have a background in high-risk crime in communities such as knife crime, murder and robbery," he said. "I have a lot of experience that I will be bringing to Kent.

"I'm very aware there will be differences, but policing is policing and wherever people live they should expect the same service."

Mr Adams, 43, has come from the comparable county of Essex and has links to his new workplace, having lived near Folkestone as a child and his son studies at a Kent university.

THE JOB: Assistant Chief Constables Alan Pughsley and Andy Adams have arrived in Kent

In Essex he held a number of senior positions, including head of criminal justice, divisional commander and head of corporate development. He also worked in community race relations.

The gold firearms commander, (the highest level of police firearms qualification), said: "For the first three months I want to understand what makes Kent tick as an organisation and as a county."

Mr Adams will be responsible for the policing of Kent's strategic road network and also public order.

The force has been widely criticised for the policing of last summer's Climate Camp, an environmental protest over plans for a new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth.

Asked his impressions of what has been labelled as "heavy-handed" policing, he said: "There have been some very vocal criticisms of the way it has been policed. My early understanding is that it was a big policing operation and like most operations there are things that can be learnt, but without having the detail yet it's difficult to say more.

"The important thing in policing protests is to balance the rights of the individual with making sure law and order is maintained."

Mr Pughsley said although they are both responsible for different types of crime, their roles were very much linked: "Every bit of serious organised crime originated in someone's neighbourhood so I will be working closely with Andy, bringing the three ACCs together and improving public confidence."

He added: "The force attracted me because it is forward thinking and has started to have some fantastic performance and I hope to bring my experience and drive it forward."

Mr Adams added: "The force has ambition to be in the top two of its most similar forces in the country and there's nothing I've seen so far to say that's not achievable."

The other newly appointed ACC is Gary Beautridge, who joined Kent Police in 1979, and has been serving as temporary ACC for the force since June last year.

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CHRIS BRITCHER
CAMPAIGN EDITOR
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Neill Barston visits The Mulberry Tree, which has just tucked another award under its belt

Happy diners give glowing approval to local champion

TUCKED away in the leafy surroundings of Boughton Monchelsea, The Mulberry Tree has been named as the Good Food Guide readers' favourite restaurant in the South East.

The accolade is all the more impressive given the fact the Hermitage Lane venue, which was completely revamped from a down-at heel pub two years ago, has yet to appear in the prestigious national culinary guide.

Needless to say, the team at the restaurant were over the moon at the award, which comes in the wake of its recognition with a Produced In Kent Taste of Kent Award.

Karen Williams, The Mulberry Tree's front of house manager said: "This has made all the hard work pay off, it's fantastic for us. We had originally tried just having snack food available here at the venue, but that just didn't work. So we looked at what people really wanted and it's great that we have an award that has been gained by customers writing in."

She added that head chef Alan Irwin has been instrumental in the restaurant's success. The post is his first senior role, having previously worked as part of the team at Michelin starred venue Chapter One in Bromley.

The restaurant's contemporary styling and menu has been a big hit with customers, who have valued its philosophy of ensuring its food is sourced from Kent.

Its seasonal specials, ranging from fish caught off the county's coast, locally reared meat, and fresh vegetables from its own garden supplies have made it a sought-after evening venue. The restaurant also serves a continually evolving lunch menu that's suitable for both meat eaters and vegetarians.

There is a full selection of beers available from its bar, which also stocks a varied range of Kentish wines which can be enjoyed in its terrace garden.

More than 23,000 people voted in The Good Food Guide's annual readers' Restaurant of the Year award, which recognises excellence and good service at independently owned restaurants, pubs and cafés across the UK.

The public were invited to nominate their favourite independently-owned and run restaurant, pub or café in their region, preferably one that offers regional dishes and/or seeks out local producers. They could nominate online or submit a postcard that was available from restaurants.

The Mulberry Tree now joins nine other regional winners to compete for the overall Restaurant of the Year title, which will be awarded on Tuesday, June 9, at a ceremony to be held at the British Museum.

Elizabeth Carter, editor of The Good Food Guide believed there had been some strong competition for this year's awards.

She said: "All of the restaurants that made it on to this year's shortlist should be really proud of the show of support they've received from their customers.

"The Mulberry Tree isn't the easiest place to find, but persevere. Alan Irwin's cooking is heroically seasonal, based on first-class local produce."

For more information on the venue visit www.themulberrytreekent.co.uk or telephone 01622 749082 or 01622 741058. For more details on the awards, visit www.which.co.uk/awards.

Take a bite of the cherry during weekend festival

A CELEBRATION of Kent's longstanding production of cherries is being held at Brogdale Farm in Faversham.

The Cherry Festival event, which takes place on the weekend of July 11-12, will offer more than 50 varieties for visitors to try at their leisure as they take in the national fruit collection, which features a total of more than 3,500 fruit varieties including apples, pears, plums, nuts and cherry varieties on site.

Sally Roger, of Brogdale Collection said: "Cherries are so tasty and buying locally when they are in season does make a huge difference to the taste. A visit to Brogdale is a unique experience."

The farm offers a great day out for the family in offering a wide range of fresh local produce at its marketplace.

Fore more about the collection and the Cherry Festival visit www.brogdale collections.co.uk

Celebration is brewing to help mark first forces day

ONE of Kent's most innovative ale producers, The Nelson Brewery, is creating a special beer to mark the first Armed Forces Day taking place in Medway.

The Chatham Historic Dockyard-based company is hard at work putting the finishing touches to its brew, which will be released in time to coincide with the massive military event on Saturday, June 27.

Piers MacDonald, of the Nelson Brewery, commented: "This is going to be a really important event for us and the whole of Medway and we're glad to be a part of it."

For more information about the day and how to get tickets visit www.armedforcesday.org.uk/

foodforkent.co.uk We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at foodforkent.co.uk or email us at feedback@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Attenborough in touch with planet

SIR David Attenborough does not tend to court controversy, accept perhaps among creationists.

But people will have been struck by his extreme predictions about the effect overpopulation will have on the planet.

There is no doubt the broadcaster and naturalist has seen first-hand the affect mankind has had on the natural world over his long career of nearly six decades.

Some may question his predictions of mass starvation and war as nations become overcrowded. But there is no question people are damaging the environment and it is accepted climate change must be acted on.

Sir David's comments may seem radical, and even unacceptable, but a public debate about population control, birth control, and public policy and personal responsibility will have to come one day.

But in the end it may be about couples having to think about the wider implications of how many children they decide to have.

Vote the best way to hit back at MPs

PEOPLE are rightly angry with politicians who have abused the expenses system at cost to the taxpayer.

Voters have become disillusioned with politics but the county and European elections on Thursday are still important.

People should not let the MPs' expenses scandal become an excuse for apathy. Use your right to vote and let's aim for a higher turnout at the polls this year.

OPINION: It's time for a revolution

LAURA SANDYS wants to us to make changes to put the people back at the heart of our politics

THERE is no question that the last few weeks have been the worst for British politics in my lifetime.

And with very just cause. The public are revolted, disgusted and appalled.

This is not limited to those outside the political sphere; activists who knock on doors, stuff envelopes, and deliver leaflets in support of their party feel particularly betrayed.

But there has been a typically British revolution simmering away for many years – not violent but one that has turned its back on politicians and the political class. The expense claims have been the lightning rod for this sense of disillusion, disempowerment and disengagement from our political process. Politics in this country have not been right for a long time.

Power has resided in the wrong places – centralised in Whitehall with faceless politicians and even more invisible bureaucrats deciding our futures.

We are harassed by illogical inflexible procedures and pushed around by officialdom.

Why is it that we are educating people more while imprisoning them with regulations that inhibit their innovation and self-reliance? We are making people 'compliant' rather than allowing diversity of opinion and approach to life and work.

We have more regulation 'police' monitoring our businesses and telling our local public servants how to do their jobs, giving them no opportunity to exercise their own sound judgement.

As a people we are becoming fearful of risk, inhibited from being different, creating a grey society that is judged through box ticking as either compliant and obedient or risky and dangerously 'adventurous'.

Our lives have become dominated by rules, not common-sense, treating us with no respect, showing us little dignity and affording us no discretion.

A radical approach is needed to change the nature of politics in our country. One that acknowledges the mistakes made by those in power, recognises politics needs to change fundamentally, articulates the solution and then delivers. And the radical agenda must be to redistribute power from the centre to the man and woman in every community.

As a member of the Conservative Democracy Taskforce I am very pleased David Cameron is proposing such a radical change.

It is not just the political anorak proposals about select committees and parliamentary procedure that matters. It is the reversal of the chain of command that Cameron stated that is important... putting the power back with the people, power of communities for communities, and judged by communities.

We need to give people the levers of power to determine their future – achieve success and yes, make mistakes. Power will be taken back by our communities to decide on the housing we need. Parents have powers to chose the schools their children deserve.

The people need the right to initiate local or national referenda on issues that matter to them.

Power needs to shift – "From the state to citizens; from the government to Parliament; from Whitehall to communities; from Brussels to Britain; from judges to the people; from bureaucracy to democracy."

And if you really want change that hits MPs then Cameron has promised one other thing that will put a smile of every voter's face – a reduction in the number of MPs... A truly British revolution in the making.

• Laura Sandys is a member of the Democracy Taskforce, chair of openDemocracy.net and Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Thanet South

'A radical approach is needed to change the nature of politics in our country'

It's all about their egos

I wonder if the on-going scandal of some of our corrupt MPs will have a further and more wide-reaching effect on the lives of the public in this no longer great country?

Apart from the banking scandal, how many more areas of our so-called democracy are going to come under scrutiny and be exposed as ripping off the public to benefit the already grossly overpaid execs in all areas of life, for instance supermarkets, football clubs and energy companies and transport costs, prices are continually rising and services are falling, where is all the money going?

Money itself is not a living breathing entity, it does not decide what price a particular item is worth.

All these extortionate charges we suffer at the hands of the faceless bureaucrats, are created by human beings and their never-ending arrogance and greed.

Will there actually ever come a time when these people who are causing so much misery and poverty in order to satisfy their own despicable lifestyles and deplorable egos ever be held to account, and forced to supply services at a more fair and honest rate?

And finally to the ridiculously pompous and cartoon-like MP who says we are jealous because he has a big house, similar to Balmoral, let me tell this fool, we are not, we don't care what size your house is, just don't expect us to bloody well pay for it, moron!

Scott Burns
By email

It's Gillingham, not Barcelona

My congratulations to Gillingham Football Club on their promotion into a higher division.

I am pleased for them and don't wish to belittle their achievement, but they didn't win the World Cup, they just won enough games to scrape through after play-offs and lost enough games to necessitate play-offs.

BBC Radio Kent was still going hysterical on Tuesday about the Saturday game, which leads me to ask – should BBC Radio Kent be renamed BBC Radio North West Kent?

Their reporting seems to be centred on Medway, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and Gravesend.

There are several other little places in south and east Kent, such as Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone, Dover, Deal, Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Margate, Herne Bay, Whitstable, Faversham and Sittingbourne, which seldom get a mention.

I know east Kent is a quieter area, but things sometimes happen here which are worth reporting.

Dover Football Club also won promotion to a higher division but I didn't hear much hysteria about that.

Over the last couple of seasons Radio Kent has reported on the Charlton Athletic football games. They are not in Kent, they are a London club, they just send out transport to poach supporters away from the Kent clubs.

Derek McMahon
Birchington

Treated like a nobody

It is all very well for the likes of Greg Clarke, Conservative MP, praising Blantyre House prison for finding work on the Olympic site at £7.50 an hour plus free transport to and from work, but what about the British workers who live in Kent and the London areas who cannot find work?

The unemployed should be found work first. These jobs were not advertised in the papers and I doubt they were up in the job centres either.

It would seem the easiest way to get a job on the Olympic site is to be put in accommodation in the areas around the site then state these jobs are going to local people.

But they are immigrants, legal or otherwise and the rumours are that English is the third spoken language on the Olympic site.

You might say I have 'an axe to grind' but I was made redundant in the middle of March, was not allowed to sign on at the job centre until four weeks later and as yet have received no money from the job centre.

I also paid every month to cover my mortgage if sick/made redundant. The form I need signing is an ABI/1 and as yet the job centre has refused to sign this form because of the issue of a pension I receive of £50 a month before tax, and because my wife works full time I am only entitled to a contribution-based jobseekers' allowance.

I am 60, have worked all my life and am treated as though I am a nobody and am of no interest to anyone, especially the 'dole offices' (now called Jobcentre Plus).

If you are not online or cannot use a computer, putting it as politely as possible, you are truly 'stuffed'.

Name and address supplied.

Do you have the book?

Can anyone give me a clue as to the whereabouts of Mrs Imogen Rigden's 'beautiful' scrapbook?

It was last seen in about 1990, when her great grandson, Antony Rigden, allowed Audrey Bateman to make use of it in her book Victorian Canterbury.

Imogen was the wife of Dr George Rigden (1815-1904), the long serving medical officer and secretary at the Canterbury Dispensary.

I am a KCC Time2Give volunteer at Canterbury Library, housed in the Beaney Institute – but temporarily relocated to allow conservation and extension works to proceed.

My project is to research the rags-to-riches life story of its donor, the Hon James George Beaney (1828-91).

Poor but ambitious, this local lad became a doctor and emigrated to Australia where he made his fortune.

He bequeathed £10,000 to build the Canterbury Institute and he also gave money to support the training of medical students, both here and in Australia.

Dr Rigden helped Beaney start out on his medical career by employing him as an errand boy and later in dispensing medicines. Recognising his ability, he mentored him and they became life-long friends.

Beaney was always grateful and sent Rigden personal gifts and also generous donations to the dispensary.

I would be interested to know if Mrs Rigden makes any reference to this enduring friendship between mentor and pupil in her scrapbook.

Alan Barber
Canterbury

Letters continued on page 46

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS

ABADOM
Ekenedilichukwu Vivienne born on 18th April 2009 weighing 7lb 15oz at Darent Valley Hospital Dartford. Daughter to Chike and Ngozi Abadom.

ALLINSON
Enya born on 15th May 2009 at 7.15pm,weighing 7lbs 15oz. Daughter to Nicholas and Kelly in Westgate-on-Sea.You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

BALE
Bob and Natalie of Whitstable Bay proudly announce the birth of their son, Bobby William , on 16th May 2009 at 8.10pm weighing 6Ib 14oz.

BRIDGER
Ben and Hannah are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Alissia Nicole on 15th May 2009 weighing 6lb 3oz

OLIVE-RUSSELL
Ike and Sky of Canterbury proudly announce the safe arrival of their beautiful son, Jude Indiana, on 13th April 2009. A new little brother for Alex and Finn.

PEIRCE
Laila Alice born on 15th May 2009, weighing 9Ibs 1oz. Daughter to Katie and Ricky and sister to Aliyah.

ROISSETTER
Francesca and Gordon are very pleased to announce the birth of their son Taylor on 17th May 2009 weighing 9lb 15oz. Brother for Alfie.

SHONAIYA
Oluwaseyi and Adeola celebrate the birth of their daughter Obajuwon Winifred on 24th April 2009 weighing 9lb 15oz at Darent Valley Hospital .

SIMM
Emma and Matthew celebrate the birth of their son Reuben Asa on 9th April 2009.

VESEY-WELLS
Paul and Michelle of Faversham are pleased to announce the birth of Spencer Aron Vesey-Wells, brother to Adelaide. Born 17th May 2009 in Canterbury.

DEATHS

DABIN
Reuben Dabin of St Marys Bay died suddenly on May 19th 2009. Funeral Service at Hawkinge at 11am on the 2nd June . Its so hard to say goodbye.

DEXTER
Christopher Michael Dexter of Stelling Minnis (formerly Clapham) died reluctantly but peacefully on 23rd May 2009 at Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury. The much loved son of Michael and Mary Dexter, brother of Hugh and Belinda and father to Clare and Andrew. Will be sadly missed. The funeral will take place at Barham on 9th June at 2.40pm. Christophers wishes are that there be no flowers but donations to Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury and he requested colourful cheerful clothes be worn. A celebration of his life at Rose and Crown, Stelling Minnis afterwards. Please bring any photos you may have of Chris.

ELY
Ethel Ely of Dover died peacefully on the 22nd May 2009. Cremation Service at Barham, 10:40am on the 3rd June 2009.

EMERY
Ruby Isabelle Florence Emery of Herne Bay , formerly of Boughton, passed away in her sleep on 14th May 2009. A much loved mum,nan and great nan who will be deeply missed. Funeral enquiries to Hogben and Partis of Faversham.

GOLDING
June Golding passed away on 11th May 2009, aged 69. Dearly loved wife, mum and nan. Funeral service at St Peters and St Pauls Church Aylesford at 1.00pm on 1st June 2009. Any flowers to be sent to Doves Funeral Directors at Larkfield

GOODAYLE
Jennifer Goodayle, nee Rounce, passed away on 17th May 2009 after a long illness. Please contact Pickard and Beale at 11 Brewer St, Maidstone, ME14 1RU or telephone 01622 677155 for details of funeral arrangements.

LOMAS
John Lomas passed away on 25th May 2009, aged 73. Dearly loved husband, Father and Grand Father. Funeral Service at Vinters Park Crematorium at 9:30am on Monday 1st June. Family flowers only, but donations to Heart of Kent Hospice may be made.

WOOD
Rosetta Wood of Folkestone passed away on the 23rd May 2009. She now walks again with Jack. Enquiries to Chittendens of Folkestone.

Letters continued from page 45

Disabled by no service

I apologise for having to write in this rather aggressive manner, but what I have seen in the last year is truly disturbing.

Last Wednesday, nearly 100 people from mixed walks of life attended a public meeting in a call for better services for the adults with physical difficulties in North Kent.

Since the closure of the Queen Elizabeth Foundation (QEF) Centre on the Brent, Dartford, it is shocking the way the Conservative-run authority has callously rushed through changes to its daytime policy for disabled adults.

The consultation offered last year has now finally proven to be a dictation, a situation denied by councillors at the time.

At the meeting it was agreed that the cobbled together 'facilities' were not ready on time and incorrectly chosen. Simple facilities such as toilets with showers and areas for classes are still not ready.

So far the various policy-lead excuses for shutting the QEF resource centre have proven incorrect, a large majority of the attendees spoke at the meeting about the feelings of isolation since the QEF Resource Centre's closure and how cobbled together new facilities were not ready on time and incorrectly chosen.

Before it comes to voting on June 4 why not ask a local adult with disabilities how they feel this Conservative administration has served them?

They are hiding behind closed doors with a huge £5 million marketing budget whilst the vulnerable and us council tax payers suffer.

As opposed to David Cameron's nice guy image, if the unhealthily strongly Tory-run KCC with its business-led ideals are anything to go by, they will not think twice before cutting vital services from our community.

Indeed, what is more disgusting is that those responsible for cutting these vital services will not even turn up to meetings to listen to members' issues since the changes they introduced.

This is not good enough, in fact it is callous.

James Willis
Lib Dem spokesperson for Dartford

Free parking for Towns

I see that on May 23 Gravesham Council decided to make Gravesend a free parking zone on Saturdays (Sunday is already free parking). The reason, they want to try and boost trade there.

Billericay in Essex made parking free last February and trade is up by about 10 per cent. The free parking in Gravesend could take away more shoppers from Medway, making the place go downhill even further.

Now what Medway Council needs to do to draw people into our towns is to make parking free at the weekends, like Gravesend, and offer up to four hours free parking during the week and free parking after 6pm.

Perhaps then we might get people to come here, or are they waiting for Maidstone to offer shoppers free parking first? Other towns will follow Gravesend and Billericay as they seem to have got the message that paying for parking is killing our town centres.

Come on Medway Council, let's get in first. Do some out-of-town advertising and let's get people to come here. We might even get the 60-plus empty shop units filled.

Peter Nassan
Chatham

We're not all entitled

Perhaps I have it wrong, but I believe that not all people on the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners Mobility supplement are entitled to Motability.

If a person is past 60 (or is it 65?) at a time when they need it most they cannot obtain it. Your article, 'Motability still under-utilised', gives a false impression and does not mention this fact.

DW Lark
Tankerton

The majority are good

When William Wilberforce was elected to Parliament he was so shocked by the corruption that he wanted to resign. Fortunately John Newton persuaded him that good men were needed there to change things and he went on to achieve the abolition of slavery.

Shocking as it is, the present scandal in Parliament does not compare with the corruption of old.

A small number of MPs have been corrupt and have blackened the name of the majority who are honest and hard working.

Unfortunately over 600 MPs who are not fiddling their expenses do not make headlines and the bar room whingers with their total negative attitudes want to believe all our politicians are corrupt.

The recent victory for the Gurkhas was achieved by MPs of all parties working together.

Smoke-free buildings and big advances in animal welfare are also the result of cross-party work by MPs.

The present problems should not be allowed to hide the achievements of the present government.

Vast improvements in school buildings, the elimination of long waiting lists in the NHS and waiting times in hospitals are an example. Vast improvements in the railways have almost repaired the damage done by privatisation.

Locally the new hospital at Pembury is in sight after virtually no hope under the previous government.

We must be careful of calls for voting reform. Remember that Hitler came to power under proportional representation.

David Burgess
Ivy Cottage
Hawkhurst

Stand up for yourself

What our politicians call "ordinary people" get into terrible trouble when they fiddle or don't pay their taxes.

So I suggest we "ordinary people" in Kent get out and use our vote on the June 4, for an alternative party or an independent candidate, in order to give the main parties the shock they deserve.

It doesn't matter whether you vote for Ukip, English Democrats or independent – just don't vote for the BNP.

Ken Bennett
Ramsgate

Get rid of self-servers

Maybe it's a good thing Ann Widdecombe will be retiring at the next election.

Along with so many other MPs, she appears to have lost the plot.

The expenses scandal was just the straw that broke the camel's back.

Voters have had enough of being treated as useful only as election fodder and then being ignored, lied to and taken as fools.

After ignoring millions of voters and taking us to war on a tissue of lies, to kill hundreds of thousands of innocent people, waste billions of pounds and lay waste to Iraq, you'd have thought they would have learnt their lesson.

But no, they still have the same arrogance, the same mindset and the same contempt for democracy

We need a general election to get rid of the self servers, the time servers and the egoists, so we can elect more like Vince Cable, Frank Field and David Davis to return our country to a democracy, instead of the usual elected dictatorship.

Phil Granger
West Malling

Let's clean up Europe

Now that we have had a good start at cleaning up our Parliament, what about that lot in the EC?

The start must be to derail the gravy train the MEPs are far too fond of: next the Commission itself, there is an ironic joke about them:

Question: What is the difference between the EC and the Mafia?

Answer: The spelling.

What other organisation in the free world never allows its books to be audited?

Where are those "tobacco farms, olive and orange groves"? Who is getting the money that is paid to phantom staff? And what is being done about the rampant nepotism that exists within the Commission?

Once people start thinking about the subject, then they realise the absolute importance of having a referendum, because if we pull out, without our payments of billions the EC could collapse.

Doug Cheverst
Bexleyheath

Freedom's last chance

I read with amazement the recent pledges made by David Cameron regarding returning power to the public.

He mentioned a "massive sweeping radical redistribution of power" including from Brussels to Britain, he continued with the theme of redistribution of power and local control over schools, housing and policing.

How would it be possible to accomplish this, without breaking the political stranglehold of power that the un-elected Commissioners in Brussels have over this once free and independent country?

Town halls are being closed all over the country. Centralisation is creeping in through the back door. Schools are being put into 'clusters'. Hospital A&E departments and medical practices are being threatened with closure in order to 'centralise' them.

Why can't MPs be totally honest with the public? None of those proposals can be made fact, without repealing the 1972 Communities Act, then regaining our political independence from that creeping dictatorship in Brussels.

Incidentally, I wonder how many MPs have actually read the Lisbon Treaty? I wonder if they properly understood it? If so, then they are being totally dishonest with the British public.

As I see things, this election is the last chance we have to start to regain our freedom and independence from the rapidly developing US of Socialist Europe. I am very mindful of the Russian Union of its peoples and its effects upon their freedom.

I am voting for UKIP, they may not all be angels, but as I see it, they are our last chance at regaining the freedom to govern ourselves, according to our laws and securing our own borders once again.

June Moore
Westwood Road
Tunbridge Wells

Don't vote on the fringe

On the June 4 the most important election in our recent political history is due to take place. Unfortunately the entire country is unified in a just skepticism of British politics triggered by recent events.

The election on June 4 is important for one primary reason. While the Labour government promised a referendum on the European Constitution it then reneged when its younger twin, the Constitutional Treaty, was born.

Twin is perhaps stating it too weakly, clone would be a more accurate description of what Gordon Brown would like to pass off as yet another complicated amending treaty, above the reach of ordinary people.

If this treaty is ratified by all 27 member states we take a dimensional leap to where the EU by majority rule will have a permanent arthritic grip on the windpipe of British democracy.

Not only would 63 British vetoes be abolished, but Europe would be led by a

single president, a single foreign minister, and be constructed as a single legal entity, able to sign agreements and treaties on behalf of the whole of the European Union, including the people of Kent.

We deserve the referendum we were promised. The Conservative Party is the only party that can deliver on holding a referendum on the Constitutional treaty.

Protest votes for fringe parties are simply wasted votes. No fringe party will be able to form the next government and wield the power necessary to hold the referendum we all want and the country needs!

Nirj Deva
Member of the European Parliament for Kent

Obsessed with speed

Terry Hudson makes an astonishing allegation by claiming that, "KCC allows building right up to the edge of (the M25) then complains about noise/pollution and then uses this as an excuse to lower the speed limit" (Letters, Keeping up to speed, KoS, May 24).

Are there no limits to the amount of baseless accusations Terry Hudson will level at the county council to defend his obsessional love of fast driving?

More houses are being built to accommodate Britain's ever-expanding population. This is a fact, not Terry's paranoid assertions that every council directive is part of a sinister conspiracy against motorists.

Terry Hudson is beginning to resemble an emissary for the Grim Reaper a little more each week; such is his conviction that speed limits and cameras do not save lives.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler
Canterbury

Don't give in to apathy

It's true that most of us don't have the faintest idea what goes on in Westminster, Brussels or even County Hall, but generally, even when you ask the most apathetic amongst us, we all have something to say about politicians.

We may be annoyed at the decisions they make or the expenses they claim, or perhaps we think they're all out for themselves, or even that they simply don't listen to a word we say, but by not turning up to vote you're simply giving the politicians permission to carry on doing whatever it is you disagree with them doing.

So even if you don't want to vote, show the candidates you've made the decision not to do so by going along to your polling station and drawing a line across the whole paper.

That way you're making a statement, rather than being another person who simply couldn't be bothered.

Susan Jones
Rochester

Not so neighbourly

What happened to the good old days when you could leave your front door unlocked?

A few days ago I accidentally left my keys in my front door while rushing to tend to my baby as we returned home. A few hours later, rather than being warned by a kind neighbour, I answered the door to two youngsters offering to sell me my keys back for £50.

Whatever happened to community spirit?

Nicola Peace
Folkestone

Support our carers

The week of June 8-14 is Carers Week and I'm writing to highlight the vital work done by people looking after a friend, partner or relative with cancer.

Macmillan Cancer Support is calling for greater recognition and support for carers during Carers Week, as well as celebrating the contribution they make to society, which saves the economy £87 billion every year.

We know from new research that almost three quarters (74 per cent) of people caring for a loved one who is ill, frail or disabled have reached breaking point because of the pressure of their responsibilities.

Macmillan works with partner organisations to provide support services for people caring for someone with cancer, including practical help so carers can take a much-needed break.

Also, having the right information, easily available, is important and Macmillan has information and support centres and benefits advice services to help with medical, emotional, practical or financial questions.

If readers would like to find out more about Macmillan services and our involvement in Carers Week visit www.macmillan.org.uk/carers or for more about local Macmillan services call 0800 500800.

Stephen Richards
Regional Director
London, Anglia and South East
Macmillan Cancer Support

Caring is hard work

I helped to look after both my father and my mother when they suffered from dementia, so I know only too well the challenges of caring for someone you love.

As well the emotional impact of watching my parents suffer from such a distressing disease, I found it a real struggle just to get the right practical support.

Of course, I am not alone: thousands of people in this area provide unpaid care for a relative, friend or child who is ill, frail or disabled. In fact three in five of us will be carers at some point in our lives, yet the difficulties that carers face often go unrecognised.

This year's Carers Week, which takes place from June 8-14, will combat this by recognising and celebrating the contribution made by this secret service of carers, with local and national events.

I am calling on all readers who are carers to visit www.carersweek.org to see what's happening locally and find out more about the help available to them.

Tony Robinson
TV Presenter and actor

Awareness is vital

I have lived with a condition called dystonia for almost 20 years. It's a neurological disorder which results in 'abnormal' movements and body postures.

As you can imagine, because few people have heard of dystonia or know anything about it, this breeds ignorance. It has left me and some 40,000 sufferers open to being made fun of and being bullied, but the recent Dystonia Awareness Week made steps to change this.

I had a successful career as a teacher but this was left in tatters when my dystonia went undiagnosed and people around me took advantage.

Once the kids in my classes saw my unusual head movements they rounded on me and ridiculed the perceived weakness. The lack of awareness about dystonia took away my self-confidence, my job, my marriage and most of my friends.

Things have only changed for the better recently. With support from a sympathetic GP and proactive dystonia nurse, I have begun to turn my life around with treatments that can control the worst effects of dystonia, as well as now having the reassurance that I'm not on my own.

This has allowed me to launch a new business called Letter Llama, which helps bring people together online, making new friendships and sharing their interests.

For the first time I've got real hope back for the future for myself and my daughter.

People who want to know more about dystonia and the support that's available can call the Dystonia Society's helpline number on: 0845 4586322 or see www.dystonia.org.uk

Karen Wheeler
By email

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Youngsters win gold with green animation

CLEAN CREATION: Melanie Price, Clean Kent co-ordinator, animator Dan Richards and Helen Bloor with the award-winning youngsters

ECO-friendly animators from schools across the county were congratulated for spreading the message of the Clean Kent Campaign.

Zebra class pupils at Kingsmead Primary, Canterbury, won first prize in the Animate and Create competition held at Canterbury Christ Church University. Their animation Keep Kent's Water Clean beat Churchill Primary School, Westerham, into second place.

Clean Kent co-ordinator Melanie Price said: "It's great to see the children spreading the message of a cleaner, greener, safer Kent. Their efforts reinforce our objectives of making Kent a cleaner county that we can all enjoy and be proud of."

Progress as chiefs sign up for access

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

STUDENTS in Medway tackling career courses like engineering and hair and beauty are to be given a helping hand into further education.

Last week representatives from Medway Council and the Kent and Medway Lifelong Learning Network signed an agreement to encourage youngsters studying vocational subjects to continue into university or college.

Cllr Les Wicks, portfolio holder for children's services, was one of those who put pen to paper. He said: "By signing the Progression Accord, Medway Council is demonstrating its commitment to improving access to higher education.

"We want people to continue their studies in Medway and this can be achieved by improving the links between schools, colleges and Medway's universities. The Progression Accord will ensure this happens."

Target

The council already supports learners studying more traditional subjects into higher education through the Medway Progression Compact, but the new agreement will target vocational students for the first time.

By signing the Progression Accord both bodies have made a commitment to support the region's schools in increasing vocational courses, aiding the development of other similar agreements throughout Kent and sharing information regarding students' progress.

Rose Collinson, director of children and adult services at Medway Council, was also on hand to sign the document.

She said: "Everyone deserves to have the opportunity to continue their education once they have left school, and this agreement is the council's pledge to ensure learners are given the support they need to secure a place on a higher education course."

Vocational qualifications can range from general qualifications where a student learns skills relevant to a variety of jobs, to specialist qualifications designed for a particular sector. Well-known examples include BTECs and OCR Nationals.

The Kent and Medway Lifelong Learning Network is a partnership of all the further education colleges and institutions in the county, as well as regional and national stakeholder organisations.

Director Hugh Joslin said: "This accord is being signed to show young people studying vocational courses that university is a real possibility for them."

The document was signed at Medway Council's headquarters at Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham.

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Should you wish to discuss the role informally, please call Karen Tyrell, Assistant Director of Development on 01795 590635 on Mon/Tue/Wed during weeks commencing 1 and 8 June.

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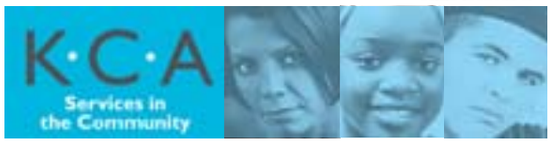

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KOS Media is a highly successful newspaper publisher within Kent, that has received many awards from the newspaper industry for the innovative Kent on Sunday, Kent on Saturday and numerous mid-week newspapers.

We now have vacancies for experienced

Mac Operators

We are looking for experienced, confident and self-motivated team players, preferably with newspaper experience, who are seeking to further their career within the industry.

The individual must have relevant Mac experience including knowledge of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator. The ability to touch-type would be advantageous.

The candidate should be able to work under pressure, meet strict deadlines and be eager to work within a team environment to ensure the smooth operation of our fast-paced production department.

Hours will be variable and include weekend working.

Previous applicants need not apply.

To apply, send a CV and covering letter to:

Personnel
KOS Media
Apple Barn
Hythe Road, Smeeth
Kent TN25 6SR

or email: personnel@kosmedia.co.uk

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What's more, it means a friendly working environment – as well as all the training and support you need to do a terrific job.

The question is, have you got what it takes to be part of this fast-growing national company? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure. You must also share our commitment to getting things right – every time. If you're interested in any of our roles within Outbound, Private Medical Insurance and Broking, relevant experience would be beneficial.

If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing your CV, quoting reference SVS307/KOS, to Alice Forsyth, HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or e-mail: human.resources@saga.co.uk
Alternatively, please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 12 June 2009.

saga.co.uk

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nacro
changing lives
reducing crime

Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.
Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years/ adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.
As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies:

TEAM LEADER (PUBLIC SERVICES/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES)

£21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)
We are looking for a motivated individual to develop and deliver a public services/outdoor activities course primarily through our e2e Programme.
You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in sport and physical activity to increase their participation and progression. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to ensure take up of the course. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre.

TRAINER

£19,658 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)
We hold contracts for Entry to Employment (e2e) and Schools to deliver programmes which engage and develop young people in order that they may progress into Employment, Training or Further Education.
We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas preferably childcare and/or health so that we can expand our programme for young people. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre.

We are opening our new Pathways Centre in Chatham and are looking for the following staff:

CONSTRUCTION TRAINER

£19,658 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)
We are looking for a skilled craftsman (preferably with some brick work skills), to join our successful construction team to deliver training and assess learners to ensure that they meet the required standards as lay down by awarding bodies.

PROJECT WORKER/ADMIN SUPPORT

£21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)
We are looking for a motivated individual to work with the Construction Development Officer and team providing administration and also liaising with referring agencies, work experience placements and funding bodies. You need to have excellent administration and communication skills.

ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICE

Salary: £85 per week
Nacro are seeking to recruit an Administration Apprentice to provide administrative assistance to support the Project Worker/Admin in the new Construction Building. This will include general office duties including answering the telephone, Faxing, Filing, Photocopying and to assist with some data imports
Closing date for all the above posts is 8 June 2009 with interviews being held week commencing 15 June 2009. Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process.
Nacro is a registered Charity No. 226171

Join Kent's award-winning design studio

Designer/Visualiser
Part-time/Full-time

An opportunity has arisen for a creative, self motivated team player who is able to work under pressure to deadline, to join our busy studio department.

You will be expected to have an eye-for-detail and produce innovative visual ideas for new and exsisting clients, along with having the speed and creative edge to design and produce quality finished artwork for our in-house marketing material and online products.

You will need the relevant mac experience with an in-depth knowledge of QuarkXPress, Photoshop and Illustrator. You will also be expected to be flexible within your working hours.

To apply for this position, please send your CV and covering letter, with two examples from your portfolio to:

Anna Harman, Studio Manager, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

Or email: anna.harman@kosmedia.co.uk

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The job is five days a week, including weekend work.

You will need customer service/sales experience, full driving licence and the ability to work to targets whilst delivering the very best customer service.

For more information contact: joe.jenkins@your-move.co.uk, Your Move, 171 High Street, Rochester, ME1 1EH.

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Exciting job opportunities with Rank plc

A bright future with G Casino...

UK'S LEADING CASINO OPERATOR

As the UK's leading casino operator we are committed to the development of the gaming industry. To do this we are looking for enthusiastic out-going customer focused employees to join us at our state of the art G Casino development at Westwood Cross in Thanet. Since our launch last year we have gone from strength to strength and are now having to extend our hours and take on new staff to cope with our growing popularity. As well as extending our opening hours we are launching our gallery restaurant in the coming weeks and are looking to increase our team in both the gaming and food areas of our business. So why not join our team and be part of a Kent business success story.

SENIOR CHEF

We require a senior chef to work in our new gallery restaurant, this is an exciting opportunity for someone who can lead and motivate a team of food professionals. Creative input on menus and the customer experience will be welcomed as well as long term career prospects of working for a plc.

This position will require the successful candidate to only work one single shift a day (this will be a late hours shift only) five days a week.

The salary is negotiable commensurate with your skills and ability but this is a senior position and you must be able to lead a team.

EXPERIENCED CROUPIERS / CUSTOMER FOCUSED TRAINEE CROUPIERS

Due to our extended opening hours and growing demand we are looking to recruit experienced Croupiers who want to be part of this exciting and growing casino experience. The successful applicants will have a strong customer focus and must be able to work as part of a team.

Salary will be commensurate with your grade, skills and customer service skills. We will consider trainees providing they can demonstrate outstanding customer service as we will put you on a intensive training programme as a Croupier.

CASINO

Westwood Cross
Margate Road,
Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2BF
01843 579999
www.gcasino.co.uk

To find out more or apply call Deb Armstrong G Casino Administrator 01843 579999 or email your CV with covering letter to: manager_gc-thanet@rank.com or postal applications can be sent to Deb Armstrong G Casino Westwood Cross, Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2BF

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Foster carers wanted

The Caldecott Foundation, which cares for vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption, seeks dedicated and highly motivated foster carers. Comprehensive training and support given, plus excellent rates of pay.

Contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk

The Caldecott Foundation, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SP.

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Local Teachers for Local Schools

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Career Opportunities

Sheppey College

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Trainer Demonstrator Construction — ***Ref: 07/07***

18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th June 2009 at 12 noon.

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- **Pension & Life Assurance Scheme**
- **Proximity to main bus & train stations**
- **Generous Holiday Allowance**
- **Close to Town Centre**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
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CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*

Career Opportunities

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Section Manager Construction Craft — **08/12**
37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum

Temporary Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Conservation — **09/04**
37 hours per week, salary starting from £33,858 per annum
Fixed term post up to 11 months, maternity cover

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based — **07/87**
37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Lecturer Media Theory — **08/53**
18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Key Skills (to Automotive Engineering students) — **07/30**
37 or 2 x 18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum (pro rata for part time posts)

Trainer Demonstrator Public Services — **08/140**
37 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th June 2009 at 12 noon

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- ***Pension & Life Assurance Scheme***
- ***Proximity to main bus & train stations***
- ***Close to City Centre***
- ***Sports Hall & Gym***
- ***Generous Holiday Allowance***
- ***Staff Discount Scheme***

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CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*

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PORTAL HOUSE SCHOOL
Sea Street, St. Margaret's at Cliffe,
Dover, Kent CT15 6SS
Tel: **01304 853033**
E-mail: headteacher@portal-house.kent.sch.uk
Head teacher: Rose Bradley

"Portal House School is a good school with outstanding features"
OFSTED March 2009

DEPUTY HEAD

Start January 2010 or sooner
Leadership Scale 14-18

Owing to the promotion of the previous deputy we are seeking to appoint a committed, experienced Senior Manager who enjoys the challenges and rewards of working with able secondary aged students who have SEBD needs. Portal House School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children therefore all candidates will require an enhanced CRB check.

Portal House is a Secondary Special school and currently has 48 pupils on roll expanding to 60 in September 2009.

For an informal discussion or to arrange a visit please contact Rose Bradley, Headteacher. Application packs are available from the school office.

Closing Date: 29th May 2009
Interview Date: 12th June 2009

Saint George's

Church of England School

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 • Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

TEACHER OF MEDIA STUDIES

Required for September 2009 • Main Pay Scale

We require an enthusiastic and innovative teacher of media studies who is committed to raising the achievement of our students. Applications are welcome from interested candidates including NQTs.

Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over - subscribed Humanities College. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Please contact us to request further details and an application form. Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk and click on the 'Job Vacancies' link Candidates will be invited for an informal interview upon receipt of application.

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Public Rights Of Way Officer: Network Management

£20,262 - £30,219 per annum, pro rata (Salary dependent on experience and progression through the Career Grade is based on the fulfillment of required competencies)
22 hours per week

With over 670okm of public rights of way, Kent County Council manages the largest network in the country. It also has an excellent national reputation in service delivery and forward thinking, dynamic new initiatives. The Countryside Access Service is looking for a new officer to join them to deliver the day to day maintenance requirements for the network in the Dartford and Gravesham District.

You will respond to a wide variety of reported problems, received by letter, telephone and email; plan, tender and manage works by contractors and advise on the impact of planning proposal on the network.

The post carries a high-volume workload so will need to be able to juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of technology. A team player with excellent inter-personal and communication skills, you will have a high level of motivation, a good knowledge of rights of way law and practice and excellent organisational skills.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference ER/09/0048.

Closing date: Midday, 15th June 2009.

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www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

St John's
Catholic Comprehensive

Rochester Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2JW
Specialist Arts College

St John's is being fully rebuilt as part of the Kent Building Schools for the Future initiative. Building work is now under way. We are seeking support staff in the following roles for September 2009 to help us develop before the school moves to the new premises in 2010.

SIMS Co-ordinator:
KS Band 7, Points 20 - 24 £ 18,263.52 pro rata 37 hr/week, 42 weeks per year

We are looking for an experienced database co-ordinator to maintain and update the school SIMS database. The successful candidate will be responsible for data integrity and input, and organising data upgrades. They will also need to maintain the school timetable and prepare reports for the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors. Experience of working in a school is desirable and excellent ICT skills and accuracy are essential. This is a new and exciting role which will be tailored to meet the demands of the changing school environment.

Pastoral Manager:
KS Band 6, Points 17-20 £15,586.44 pro rata 37 hr/week, 39 weeks per year

A flexible, enthusiastic and motivated person is required to support Community Co-ordinators in the welfare and day-to-day management of students in their communities. Experience of working with young people is desirable and ability to manage workload effectively is essential. A First Aid qualification is desirable.

Community Admin Assistant:
KS Band 4, Points 11 - 14 £13,758.36 pro rata 37 hr/week, 40 weeks per year

An enthusiastic and reliable person is required to work as administrative support for a Community (approximately 400 students). The successful candidate will be required to input student data, log attendance and behaviour, be first contact point for student medical assistance and provide admin support. Identification and resolution of student issues will be a key part of the job. Excellent English, Maths, communication and organisational skills are required. The successful candidate must have a First Aid qualification or be prepared to take the necessary course to obtain one.

Receptionist: (part-time)
KS Band 3, Point 7 - 11 £8,221.32 pro-rata 25 hr/week, 40 weeks per year

A professional and efficient person is required to work in our reception area. The successful candidate will be the first point of contact for telephone enquires and will be responsible for visitors, telephone messages and post distribution and despatch. Handling student enquiries is a key part of the role. Excellent customer service and communication skills are essential. The successful candidate must have a First Aid qualification or be prepared to take the necessary course to obtain one.

Please contact the school on **01474 534718** or e-mail **office@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk** for an application pack. Job descriptions and application forms can also be downloaded from our website: **www.st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk**

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science College

Science

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website:www.ggsg.org.uk
email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

BUSINESS MANAGER

KSS Band 12 (£41,112-£48,152)
Required for September 2009

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed Business Manager to join the Senior Leadership Team and make a key strategic contribution to the continued development of the school.

The successful candidate will be highly motivated with superb interpersonal skills who can take the initiative and motivate others. You will also need to have a high level of experience in administration, financial management, project management and team leadership. Experience of working in education would be an advantage.

By 2010 the school will have undergone major redevelopment as part of the 'Building Schools for the Future' initiative and we would expect you to take a very 'hands on' role in this important project.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development. Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004, adding a second specialism in Languages in April 2009.

We welcome informal visits and would be proud to show you around our successful school. To arrange this please contact the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Maureen Tong-Ralphs on 01474 352896.

To request an application pack please contact Mrs Maureen Tong-Ralphs, PA to the Headteacher Completed forms should be returned by **Monday 22nd June 2009** to Mrs Wilson, Headteacher.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
www.ggsg.org.uk

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Greenacre School

A Specialist Sports College.

157 Walderslade Road, CHATHAM, Kent Tel: 01634-861593 Fax: 01634-869246
Email: office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk www.greenacre.medway.sch.uk

Age range: 11-18 years
Number on roll in Years 7-11 = 806
Number on roll in mixed Sixth Form = 217

"The school's specialist status makes a considerable contribution to the whole school and local community. It has enhanced the school's focus on enjoyment and health as well as developing core elements of sport, such as the importance of discipline and teamwork, across the school" (OFSTED January 2008).

Teacher of PE

Salary: Negotiable. Required for 1 September 2009

Greenacre School is a boys high school with a mixed Sixth Form following a full range of academic and vocational courses. As a Sports College, Physical Education is a key influence in the future development of the school.

We can offer:

• A laptop • Outstanding resources • Improved KS3, GCSE and A Level results year on year.

For further information and an application form please contact Mr. A J Reese, Headteacher, or download an application form from the school website. Informal visits are most welcome.
Closing date for applications is 21st June 2009

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PORTAL HOUSE SCHOOL

Sea Street, St. Margaret's at Cliffe,
Dover, Kent CT15 6SS
Tel: **01304 853033**
E-mail: headteacher@portal-house.kent.sch.uk
Head teacher: Rose Bradley

"Portal House School is a good school with outstanding features"
OFSTED March 2009

We have the following exciting opportunities for those who enjoy the challenges and rewards of teaching able students with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties.
Portal House School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children therefore all candidates will require an enhanced CRB check. The school currently has 48 pupils on roll expanding to 60 in September 2009

Required for September 2009

- **Full-time Teacher of Humanities**
- **Full-time Teacher of Mathematics**
- **Part-time Teacher of P.E.**

Salary for all posts MPS plus Special School Allowance

For further information, informal visits and an information pack please contact the school office.

Closing Date: 25th May 2009
Interview Date: 5th June 2009

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Accountancy

Finance Assistant

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
22.5 hours per week For application and job description Tel: 01732 459953 Email: council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk
To apply/more information:
Sevenoaks Town Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 459953
Email council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Finance Assistant

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
For application and job description Tel: 01732 459953 Email: council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk
To apply/more information:
Sevenoaks Town Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 459953
Email council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Committee clerk/Secretary

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
For application and job description Tel: 01732 459953 Email: council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk
To apply/more information:
Sevenoaks Town Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 459953
Email council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Receptionist/ administrator

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Part time receptionist/administrator/telephonist required to undertake various duties on a split shift basis at our busy dealership. We require a good organiser with strong inter-personal skills, pc literate with keyboard skills, excellent communication and the ability to manage own workload. This post would suit a mature, experienced person looking for flexible hours. For an immediate interview please send your CV to Greg Wilcox, Franchise Manager, Harwoods Landrover (Tonbridge) Vale Rise, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1TB 01732 353637 E-mail: gwilcox@harwoods.uk.com.
To apply/more information:
Harwoods of Edenbridge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 353637
Email gwilcox@harwoods.uk.com

PROJECT WORKER/ ADMIN SUPPORT

Chatham
Salary: £21,584
Closing Date: 8 June 09
Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years/ adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise selfesteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people. We have the following vacancies: TEAM LEADER (PUBLIC SERVICES/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES) £21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift) We are looking for a motivated individual to develop and deliver a public services/outdoor activities course primarily through our e2e Programme. You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in sport and physical activity to increase their participation and progression. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to ensure take up of the course. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre. PROJECT WORKER/ADMIN SUPPORT £21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift) We are looking for a motivated individual to work with the Construction Development Officer and team providing administration and also liaising with referring agencies, work experience placements and funding bodies. You need to have excellent administration and communication skills. Closing date for all the above posts is 8 June 2009 with interviews being held week commencing 15 June 2009. Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call on 01634 818305 for an application pack. Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process. Nacro is a registered Charity No. 226171
To apply/more information:
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICE

Chatham
Salary: £85 per week
Closing Date: 8 June 2009
Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years/ adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise selfesteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people. We have the following vacancies: TEAM LEADER (PUBLIC SERVICES/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES) £21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift) We are looking for a motivated individual to develop and deliver a public services/outdoor activities course primarily through our e2e Programme. You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in sport and physical activity to increase their participation and progression. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to ensure take up of the course. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre. ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICE
Salary: £85 per week Nacro are seeking to recruit an Administration Apprentice to provide administrative assistance to support the Project Worker/Admin in the new Construction Building. This will include general office duties including answering the telephone, Faxing, Filing, Photocopying and to assist with some data imports Closing date for all the above posts is 8 June 2009 with interviews being held week commencing 15 June 2009. Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call on 01634 818305 for an application pack. Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process. Nacro is a registered Charity No. 226171
To apply/more information:
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

Legal Secretary

Whitstable
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 1 June 2009
Parry Law Have another exciting opportunity for a Legal Secretary to join their Support Team. If you want to work in a thriving, progressive environment and relish a challenge please apply in writing and send your CV to: Kate Teasdale 12/14 Oxford Street Whitstable CT5 1DE The closing date for applications is 1 June 2009 www.parrylaw.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Parry Sharratt Partnership
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Art and Design

Training Design Analyst /Examiner

Medway
Salary: c£33,000 pa
Training Design Analyst/Examiner c£33k You will be able to demonstrate experience and appropriate qualifications gained within a Course Design career and are looking for the opportunity to join an established team developing Construction and Engineering courses for a range of trade and technical disciplines within an MOD/Military environment Job Descriptions and Application forms can be found at www.midkent.ac.uk (follow RSME vacancies) Please forward completed applications to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk and/or call Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 for an informal discussion on any of these positions.
Closing date: 1st June 2009
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Midday Meal Supervisors

Ashford
Salary: £2876 per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 3rd June
Five Acre Wood School is looking for Midday Meal Supervisors to join our friendly school located on sites at Boughton Lane, Maidstone and Aylesford School Sports College. The hours will be 11:30 to 1:30 each weekday, term time only. Starting salary will be Kent Scale Band 2 Point 4 - £2876 per annum. This job will be subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced CRB. Please contact the school for an application pack by 25th May. Closing date will be Wednesday 3rd June. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 10th June. Five Acre Wood and all its personnel are committed to safeguarding children and young people.
To apply/more information:
Five Acre Wood Special School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 743925
Email office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk

House Manager

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
Littlestone is a traditional private members club and enjoys one of the finest links courses in the south of England.The provision of the best possible bar, catering and functions service for members and guest alike is of paramount importance. This is an opportunity for a strong leader with a background in ensuring excellent customer service with consistently high standards in food and beverage operations. The ability to work on your own initiative and interact well with members and motivate a small staff team is vital.The role includes liaison with suppliers, co-ordinating functions, achieving sales and profit targets and you will provide a strong front of house presence. Attractive salary. Applications in writing to The General Manager, Littlestone Golf Club, St Andrews Road, Littlestone, Kent TN28 8RB Or email secretary @littlestonegolfclub.org.uk
To apply/more information:
Littlestone Golf Club
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email secretary @littlestonegolfclub.org.uk

Cook

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
We manage two club house catering operations and require an experienced cook to work in both, based at the Warren but also assisting with functions at Littlestone. No split shifts and hours by arrangement. Applications in writing to The General Manager, Littlestone Golf Club, St Andrews Road, Littlestone, Kent TN28 8RB Or email secretary @littlestonegolfclub.org.uk
To apply/more information:
Littlestone Golf Club
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email secretary @littlestonegolfclub.org.uk

Chef and Waiting Staff

Faversham
Salary: TBA
White Lion Require Part time chef And Part time waiting staff Please call laura Tel: 01227 752211
To apply/more information:
White Lion
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 752211
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Childrens's Club Leaders and Character Performer

Dover
Salary: n/a
Required for Dover-Calais Ferry contracts. Must be available to work 5 days per week, weekendsincluded and have accommodation in Dover area. Applicant will be subject to a CRB disclosure
To apply/more information:
Live Business Grosvenor Productions
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email jobs@live business.co.uk

Child Care

Qualified Play Scheme Leader

Thanet
Salary: £20,241.70 pro rata (£10.50ph)
Closing Date: 05/06/09
Holiday Play Scheme for Young people with Disabilities 27 July 2009 to 7 August 2009 Qualified Play Scheme Leader (Temporary) Job reference - PSL0001 Salary Scale: £10.50ph Hours: 1 day per week for 4 weeks preparing the scheme, 9:00-5:00 for 9 days from 27 July 2009 to 7 August 2009 including one day of training, and 1 day for reviewing and reporting. East Kent Mencap, in partnership with other local organisations have received funding from Children in Need to run a 2 week summer play scheme for young people with disabilities aged 11-19 living in Thanet and are looking for suitably qualified staff and volunteers to assist in the running of this specialist provision. These posts are subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. Being holders of the Positive about Disabled People award, disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria will be offered an interview in every circumstance. The closing date is Friday 5th June 2009. Applications must be via application form. For further information or to request an application form please contact: Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke on 01843-224482.
To apply/more information:
Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: PSL0001
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury @eastkentmencap.co.uk

Play Scheme Assistant

Thanet
Salary: £16,350.40 pro rata (£8.50ph)
Closing Date: 05/06/09
Holiday Play Scheme for Young people with Disabilities 27 July 2009 to 7 August 2009 Play Scheme Assistant (Temporary) Job reference - PSA0001 Salary Scale: £8.50ph Hours: 9:00-5:00 for 9 days from 27 July 2009 to 7 August 2009, including one training day. East Kent Mencap, in partnership with other local organisations have received funding from Children in Need to run a 2 week summer play scheme for young people with disabilities aged 11-19 living in Thanet and are looking for suitably qualified staff and volunteers to assist in the running of this specialist provision. These posts are subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. Being holders of the Positive about Disabled People award, disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria will be offered an interview in every circumstance. The closing date is Friday 5th June 2009. Applications must be via application form. For further information or to request an application form please contact: Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke on 01843-224482.
To apply/more information:
Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: PSA0001
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury @eastkentmencap.co.uk

Volunteer Play Scheme Assistant

Thanet
Salary: Nil (any out of pocket expenses to be reimbursed)
Closing Date: 05/06/09
Holiday Play Scheme for Young people with Disabilities 27 July 2009 to 7 August 2009 Volunteer Play Scheme Assistant (Temporary) Job reference - PSV0001 Salary Scale: Nil (any out of pocket expenses to be reimbursed) Hours: 9:00-5:00 for 9 days from 27 July 2009 to 7 August 2009. East Kent Mencap, in partnership with other local organisations have received funding from Children in Need to run a 2 week summer play scheme for young people with disabilities aged 11-19 living in Thanet and are looking for suitably qualified staff and volunteers to assist in the running of this specialist provision. These posts are subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. Being holders of the Positive about Disabled People award, disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria will be offered an interview in every circumstance. The closing date is Friday 5th June 2009. Applications must be via application form. For further information or to request an application form please contact: Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke on 01843-224482.
To apply/more information:
Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: PSV0001
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury @eastkentmencap.co.uk

House Team Member

Hythe
Salary: See Below
Short term placement with possible extension. Flexible approach / Sense of Humour / enjoying working in a team under supervision of the Housekeeper. Please ting the Administrator to arrange a weekend visit. £80 per 40 hour week plus bed and board. 95 Seabrook Road, Hythe, Kent, CT20 5QY 01303 230762
To apply/more information:
Cautley House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 230762
Email susan.evans @cautleyhouse.org.uk

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Maintenance Technician

Broadstairs
Salary: £10,800 - £11,346
25 HRS PER WEEK, 8.00am.- 1.00pm. MON – FRI 52 weeks per year SALARY SCALE KS4 POINT 11 – 14 (PRO RATA TO £15,984 - £16,793) ACTUAL SALARY £10,800 - £11,346 Stone Bay School requires a Maintenance Technician to carry out minor repairs and maintenance work throughout the school. We are looking for someone who has an eye for detail and takes pride in a job well done. Basic DIY and good carpentry skills are vital. Reporting to the Caretaker, you will be carrying out tasks such as repairing broken fixtures, fittings and furniture, putting up blinds, changing light bulbs, occasionally moving furniture around classrooms and residential units, clearing blocked drains and guttering, minor plumbing repairs, mending broken fencing, and assisting the cleaning team by collecting up rubbish bags from around the school twice a day. A clean driving licence is necessary as you will be required to use the school's van and trailer to take damaged items to the landfill site, and may be required to deliver and collect minibuses for MOT/repair. Jet washing the minibuses, maintaining playground equipment and generally keeping the site tidy and safe is included in the role. The contract includes 28 days paid holiday per year, which you will be expected to take during the school holidays. You will be eligible to join the KCC pension scheme. Stone Bay School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and the successful candidates will be required to have a CRB enhanced disclosure check, and two references prior to starting. Please telephone, write or email for an application pack from the main school office. The closing date for applications is Friday 5th June 2009. Stone Bay School, 70 Stone Road, Broadstairs, CT10 1EB Tel- 01843 863421 Fax- 01843 866652 Email- office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information:
Stone Bay School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 863421
Email office @stone-bay.kent.sch.uk

Heating and Plumbing Instructor

Medway
Salary: £28,000 - £30,000
Closing Date: 1st June 2009
Following promotion we are looking for a qualified and experienced trade's person to teach young soldiers the H&P trade. You will be confident and knowledgeable about your trade and able to communicate your experience through practical demonstration and theory. Previous teaching experience is not important as you will receive training and be supported to gain appropriate qualifications. Job Descriptions and Application forms can be found at www.midkent.ac.uk (follow RSME vacancies) Please forward completed applications to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk and/or call Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 for an informal discussion on any of these positions.
Closing date: 1st June 2009
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

TEACHER OF MEDIA STUDIES

Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Required for September 2009 Main Pay Scale We require an enthusiastic and innovative teacher of media studies who is committed to raising the achievement of our students. Applications are welcome from interested candidates including NQTs. Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over -subscribed Humanities College. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF. Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks. Please contact us to request further details and an application form. Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk and click on the 'Job Vacancies' link Candidates will be invited for an informal interview upon receipt of application.
To apply/more information:
St George's CoE School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email dhariwalj @saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

TRAINER

Chatham
Salary: £19,658
Closing Date: 8 June 09
Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years/ adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise selfesteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people. We have the following vacancies: TRAINER £19,658 (Inc Labour Market Uplift) We hold contracts for Entry to Employment (e2e) and Schools to deliver programmes which engage and develop young people in order that they may progress into Employment, Training or Further Education. We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas preferably childcare and/or health so that we can expand our programme for young people. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre. Closing date for all the above posts is 8 June 2009 with interviews being held week commencing 15 June 2009. Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call on 01634 818305 for an application pack. Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process. Nacro is a registered Charity No. 226171
To apply/more information:
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

Lecturer Horticulture

Tonbridge
Salary: £22,459 to £30,276 per annum
Closing Date: 8th June 09
We are looking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic Lecturer, who will be required to teach and give practical instruction to full and part-time students across a range of Level 1 and 2 Further Education programmes. The successful candidate will need to be educated to Level 3 and have practical experience in the horticulture industry. The role will include an element of Course Management responsibility. In addition to the minimum requirements detailed above, candidates will ideally have teaching experience in a practical and/or classroom setting together with a teaching qualification or the willingness to work towards one. Candidates will aslo need to be adaptable, resourceful and resilient, have excellent communication and IT skills and the ability to work well as part of a team. The successful candidate will also need to be flexible, as the full-time hours will include teaching some evening classes and travelling to our satellite centres. As well as contributory pension scheme, sponsorship for further vocational training and free car parking, this post also attracts 35 days holiday each year (excluding Bank Holidays)
To apply/more information:
Hadlow College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 850 551
Email jobs@hadlow.ac.uk

Vacancies filled fast online with
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Teacher of PE

Chatham
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 21st June 2009
Required for 1 September 2009 Greenacre School is a boys high school with a mixed Sixth Form following a full range of academic and vocational courses. As a Sports College, Physical Education is a key influence in the future development of the school. We can offer: • A laptop • Outstanding resources • Improved KS3, GCSE and A Level results year on year. For further information and an application form please contact Mr. A J Reese, Headteacher, or download an application form from the school website. Informal visits are most welcome. Closing date for applications is 21st June 2009 GREENACRE SCHOOL A Specialist Sports College 157 Walderslade Road CHATHAM Kent Tel: 01634-861593 Fax: 01634-869246 Email: office @greenacre.medway.sch.uk www.greenacre.medway.sch.uk
To apply/more information:
Greenacre School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634-861593
Email office @greenacre.medway.sch.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Construction

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £18,963 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 8 June at 12 Noon
Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success. 18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus/Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack to apply, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 answer phone) quoting the post reference.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/07
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Temporary Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Studies

Canterbury
Salary: £33,858 PA
Closing Date: Monday 8 June at 12 Noon
37 hours per week, Fixed term post up to 11 months, maternity cover Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/04
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 PA
Closing Date: Monday 8 June at 12 Noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/87
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Lecturer Media Theory

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 PA
Closing Date: Monday 8 June at 12 Noon
18.5 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/53
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Lecturer Key Skills (to Automotive Engineering students)

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 PA (pro rata for part time posts)
Closing Date: Monday 8 June at 12 Noon
37 hours or 2 x 18.5 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/30
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Public Services

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 8 June at 12 Noon
37 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/140
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

SIMS Co-ordinator: KS Band 7, Points 20-24

Gravesend
Salary: £18,263.52 pro rata
St John's is being fully rebuilt as part of the Kent Building Schools for the Future initiative. Building work is now under way. We are seeking support staff in the following roles for September 2009 to help us develop before the school moves to the new premises in 2010 We are looking for an experienced database co-ordinator to maintain and update the school SIMS database. The successful candidate will be responsible for data integrity and input, and organising data upgrades. They will also need to maintain the school timetable and prepare reports for the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors. Experience of working in a school is desirable and excellent ICT skills and accuracy are essential. This is a new and exciting role which will be tailored to meet the demands of the changing school environment.
To apply/more information:
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 534718
Email office@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

Pastoral Manager: KS Band 6, Points 17-20

Gravesend
Salary: £15,586.44 pro rata
St John's is being fully rebuilt as part of the Kent Building Schools for the Future initiative. Building work is now under way. We are seeking support staff in the following roles for September 2009 to help us develop before the school moves to the new premises in 2010. A flexible, enthusiastic and motivated person is required to support Community Co-ordinators in the welfare and day-to-day management of students in their communities. Experience of working with young people is desirable and ability to manage workload effectively is essential. A First Aid qualification is desirable.
To apply/more information:
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 534718
Email office@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

Community Admin Assistant: KS Band 4, Points 11 - 14

Gravesend
Salary: £13,758.36 pro rata
St John's is being fully rebuilt as part of the Kent Building Schools for the Future initiative. Building work is now under way. We are seeking support staff in the following roles for September 2009 to help us develop before the school moves to the new premises in 2010. An enthusiastic and reliable person is required to work as administrative support for a Community (approximately 400 students). The successful candidate will be required to input student data, log attendance and behaviour, be first contact point for student medical assistance and provide admin support. Identification and resolution of student issues will be a key part of the job. Excellent English, Maths, communication and organisational skills are required. The successful candidate must have a First Aid qualification or be prepared to take the necessary course to obtain one.
To apply/more information:
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 534718
Email office@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

Receptionist: (part-time) KS Band 3, Point 7 - 11

Gravesend
Salary: £8,221.32 pro-rata
St John's is being fully rebuilt as part of the Kent Building Schools for the Future initiative. Building work is now under way. We are seeking support staff in the following roles for September 2009 to help us develop before the school moves to the new premises in 2010. A professional and efficient person is required to work in our reception area. The successful candidate will be the first point of contact for telephone enquires and will be responsible for visitors, telephone messages and post distribution and despatch. Handling student enquiries is a key part of the role. Excellent customer service and communication skills are essential. The successful candidate must have a First Aid qualification or be prepared to take the necessary course to obtain one.
To apply/more information:
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 534718
Email office@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

Teachers Wanted

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
Local Teachers for local schools. We have 100's of permanent positions throughout Kent for qualified teachers, teaching assistants and school support staff.
To apply/more information:
Timeplan Education Group
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 373340
Email paul.chuter@timeplan.net

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Senior Electrical Building Services Design Engineer

Ashford
Salary: TBA
A senior electrical design engineer is required to take up a position in this small consulting engineering practice based in Ashford, Kent. The ideal applicant will be experienced in all aspects of the electrical consulting design process from conception to completion and be competent using both CAD and industry standard electrical design software. Applications should be made in writing in the first instance including an up to date CV to:- Mr. S Nixon Steven Nixon Associates, 1 Caxton House, Wellesley Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8ET
To apply/more information:
Steven Nixon Associates
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

BMS Commissioning Engineer

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Due to continued success and expansion we have two immediate opportunities to join our friendly, dynamic and pro-active team. You are required to have been employed as a Commissioning Engineer with at least 3 years on site experience. Full certified Trend training (IQ2, IQ3, and 963). Experience of commissioning networked BMS systems.Involves writing strategies, testing, pre-commissioning of software and control panels, Commissioning completed installations and demonstration to the end user. Ability to trouble shoot, fault find and modify control panels is a must. CV's can be emailed to recruitment@safeandsoundcontrols.com or posted to Unit 22 Chislet Close, Lakesview International Business Park, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4LB.
To apply/more information:
Safe and Sound Control
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email recruitment @safeandsoundcontrols.com

Estate Agency, Property

Trainee Sales Negotiators

Medway
Salary: TBA
Due to a huge increase in business in 2009 we are now looking to expand our Sales teams in Medway, Kent. If you are a high calibre individual with a 'can-do' attitude, good communication skills and of smart appearance then contact us to find out more about our structured career path, extensive training and our exciting working environment. To find out more please contact: Human Resources 0800 376 7890 or email your CV to: shelley.metson@kent.cwea.co.uk Mann Countrywide is an equal opportunities employer Mann Countrywide is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mann & Co
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0800 376 7890
Email shelley.metson @kent.cwea.co.uk

Experienced Sales Negotiators

Medway
Salary: TBA
Due to a huge increase in business in 2009 we are now looking to expand our Sales teams in Medway, Kent. If you are a high calibre individual with a 'can-do' attitude, good communication skills and of smart appearance then contact us to find out more about our structured career path, extensive training and our exciting working environment. To find out more please contact: Human Resources 0800 376 7890 or email your CV to:
To apply/more information:
Mann & Co
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0800 376 7890
Email shelley.metson @kent.cwea.co.uk

Sales Consultants

Medway
Salary: TBA
The market is turning, an excellent time to get into Estate Agency. Your Move is one of the largest estate agents in the UK. We are looking for energetic, enthusiastic ambitious individuals to join our Medway team. Office based you will register buyers, sellers, arrange viewings, negotiate offers and deal with all other aspects of the property industry. We reward progression to our top performing staff. In house training, paid holiday, basic and commission. The job is five days a week, including weekend work. You will need customer service/sales experience, full driving licence and the ability to work to targets whilst delivering the very best customer service. For more information contact joe.jenkins@your-move.co.uk, Your Move, 171 High Street, Rochester, ME1 1EH.
To apply/more information:
Your Move
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email joe.jenkins @your-move.co.uk

EXPERIENCED SALES NEGOTIATOR

Thanet
Salary: n/a
to work full time at our busy Broadstairs office. The position includes weekend work and offers an attractive salary, bonus structure and commission package, depending on experience. CVs to Mrs Jose Barnett, Cooke & Co, 56 High Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1JT
To apply/more information:
Mrs Jose Barnett, Cooke & Co
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 231833
Email jose@cookeandco.com

Health & Safety, Security, Defense

Health and Safety Officer

Medway
Salary: c£31,000 pa
Closing Date: 1st June 2009
MKC Training Services Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of MidKent College, delivers the trade, technical and professional training for the Royal Engineers at Brompton Barracks. This 30 year contract was awarded in 2008 and following a review we now require a number of new staff to join us in this exciting venture. Health & Safety Officer c£31k This is a new post to establish practices and processes across the site where MKC Training Services operate. The role will include Environmental and Fire responsibilities. Candidates should hold a current NEBOSH Certificate and have up to date knowledge and understanding of H&S Legislation and practice. Job Descriptions and Application forms can be found at www.midkent.ac.uk (follow RSME vacancies) Please forward completed applications to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk and/or call Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 for an informal discussion on any of these positions. **Closing date:** 1st June 2009
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Senior Communications and Media Officer

Gravesend
Salary: circa £24,000-£30,000
Closing Date: 6 June 1009
Transformation and Finance Communications Senior Communications and Media Officer
Salary: Package circa £24,000-£30,000 You will play a pivotal role in our corporate communications function for the Council, taking the lead in working with individual departments to develop

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communications and marketing strategies which support their objectives. You will also take the lead in reviewing and improving our current publications and you'll have the opportunity to manage and develop our flagship council magazine for residents, Your Borough. You will advise colleagues across the organisation on branding and media relations. We expect you to be able to demonstrate influencing skills with persistence allied to the ability to communicate clearly, concisely and persuasively both verbally and in writing. Ideally backed up with a professional qualification, you'll have extensive practical experience of a range of external communications and marketing activities, ideally within the public sector. You'll be adept at producing a range of publicity materials from a flyer to our corporate plan and you'll be confident in devising and implementing media strategies and acting when appropriate as an official spokesperson. Working in a small team you'll be able to work under considerable pressure and manage a range of high profile projects simultaneously. Flexibility in your working hours to meet deadlines is essential, as is a full valid driving licence. Ref: SC/GC
Closing Date: 06 June 2009 For an application form and job description please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU. Telephone: 01474 33 70 00 Email: customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk/jobs Gravesham Borough Council is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The Council also operates a no smoking policy.
To apply/more information:
Gravesham Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: SC/GC
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services @gravesham.gov.uk

Management, Senior Positions

TEAM LEADER (PUBLIC SERVICES/ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES)

Chatham
Salary: £21,584
Closing Date: 8 June 2009
Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years/ adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise selfesteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people. We have the following vacancies: TEAM LEADER (PUBLIC SERVICES/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES) £21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift) We are looking for a motivated individual to develop and deliver a public services/outdoor activities course primarily through our e2e Programme. You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in sport and physical activity to increase their participation and progression. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to ensure take up of the course. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre. Closing date for all the above posts is 8 June 2009 with interviews being held week commencing 15 June 2009. Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call on 01634 818305 for an application pack. Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process. Nacro is a registered Charity No. 226171
To apply/more information:
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 212305
Email Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

Business Manager

Gravesend
Salary: KSS Band 12 (£41,112-£48,152)
Closing Date:
Monday 22nd June 2009
Required for September 2009. We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed Business Manager to join the Senior Leadership Team and make a key strategic contribution to the continued development of the school. The successful candidate will be highly motivated with superb interpersonal skills who can take the initiative and motivate others. You will also need to have a high level of experience in administration, financial management, project management and team leadership. Experience of working in education would be an advantage. By 2010 the school will have undergone major redevelopment as part of the 'Building Schools for the Future' initiative and we would expect you to take a very 'hands on' role in this important project. The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development. Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004, adding a second specialism in Languages in April 2009. To request an application pack please contact Mrs Maureen Tong-Ralphs, PA to the Headteacher Completed forms should be returned by Monday 22nd June 2009 to Mrs Wilson, Headteacher. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
To apply/more information:
Mrs Maureen Tong-Ralphs
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 352896
Email enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Projects Manager

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
You will need to have been been employed as a Projects Manager with at least 3 years relevant experience. Able to coordinate and manage site installation activities including sub-contractors. Experience of networked BMS systems. Ability to manage all aspects of a project including budget and cost control reporting to Director level. Both roles require travel throughout the South East, a good grounding in electronics and/or electrical installation with a working knowledge of wiring regulations and health & safety. You will be highly motivated and flexible with a positive attitude and the ability to work on own initiative, a clean driving license and CSCS card. CV's can be emailed to recruitment@safeandsoundcontrols.com or posted to Unit 22 Chislet Close, Lakesview International Business Park, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4LB
To apply/more information:
Safe and Sound Control
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email recruitment @safeandsoundcontrols.com

Marketing, Advertising

PUBLIC RELATIONS SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
2 Albion Place Maidstone Kent ME14 5DY
www.adamscreative.co.uk
(MATERNITY LEAVE COVER) We are looking for an experienced PR professional with excellent writing and client-facing skills, able to work to tight deadlines as well as having great organisational abilities and bundles of enthusiasm and creativity. Some experience in event management would be an asset. Please send your CV and salary required to Lesley Farnbrough at Adams Creative.
lesley@adamscreative.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Adams Creative
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
lesley@adamscreative.co.uk

Latest Kent jobs online
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

MARKETING AND SALES ASSISTANT

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
2 Albion Place Maidstone Kent ME14 5DY
www.adamscreative.co.uk
MARKETING AND SALES ASSISTANT We are looking for an organised, well presented team player with strong communication skills to support our fast paced business development team. You will be highly conscientious and motivated with a 'can do' attitude. Experience in telemarketing and lead generation is essential. Please send your CV and salary required to Becky Lander at Adams Creative.
becky@adamscreative.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Adams Creative
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
becky@adamscreative.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Meals Delivery Driver

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Meals Delivery Driver Required, 5 days over 7, 11am-1.30pm will include some weekends and will involve some kitchen tasks. Extra hours may be available to the right applicant if required. A full clean driving license is essential. Please apply by e-mail to carol@chivescaterers.co.uk or in writing Chives the Caterers, Whitgift Court, Fisher Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JJ
To apply/more information:
Chivers Catering Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email carol@chivescaterers.co.uk

MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNICIAN

Hythe
Salary: TBA
B & D Specialist Carsrequire a MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNICIAN for our busy Service Department Successful applicant will be fully skilled and conversant with modern vehicle diagnostic and repair techniques. Good salary for the right person (comparable with Franchised Dealers) Please apply to Bob Musson on 01303 264700 or to 22/25 Range Road Industrial Estate, Hythe, Kent CT21 6HG
To apply/more information:
B & D Specialist Cars
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 264700
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Skilled mechanic / Mot tester

Chatham
Salary: TBA
Please send your CV to Hazel Motors 271-287 Dale Street Chatham Kent ME4 6QR For an application Form Call 01634 406664 Or Email Info@hazelmotors.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Hazel Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 406664
Email Info@hazelmotors.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

SUPPORT WORKERS

Dover
Salary: £6.79 per hour
Broadham Care Ltd is offering exciting career opportunities for experienced care staff at their residential care home for adults with learning disabilities in Dover. SUPPORT WORKERS £6.79 per hour NVQ level 2 is an advantage Full and part time available For more information, or an application please contact: Broadham Care Ltd on 01883 732211 or email HR@broadhamcare.co.uk www.broadhamcare.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Broadham Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01883 732211
Email HR@broadhamcare.co.uk

RGN

Dover
Salary: TBA
Min Experience 2Yrs after Registration with NMC Good Communication Skills Full Time 36 Hours Contract If Work Permit required, can be arranged Salary to be negotiated depending on experience Please contact the Manager for more information: George Masih Applecroft Care Home Sanctuary Close River Dover CT17 0ER Tel: 01304 821331 Fax: 01304 821551
To apply/more information:
Applecroft Care Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 821331
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

RMN

Dover
Salary: TBA
Min Experience 2Yrs after Registration with NMC Good Communication Skills Full Time 36 Hours Contract If Work Permit required, can be arranged Salary to be negotiated depending on experience Please contact the Manager for more information: George Masih Applecroft Care Home Sanctuary Close River Dover CT17 0ER Tel: 01304 821331 Fax: 01304 821551
To apply/more information:
Applecroft Care Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 821331
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT and NIGHT CARE ASSISTANT

Hythe
Salary: TBA
Hythe Nursing Home,Hythe Kent Require a HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT Full/Part Time & NIGHT CARE ASSISTANT 8PM – 8AM Please telephone 01303 265441
To apply/more information:
Hythe Nursing Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 265441
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

DISPENSER WITH RECEPTIONIST SKILLS

Rochester
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 19 June 09
St Werburgh Medical Practice 98 Bells Lane, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9HU Tel: 01634 250523 PART TIME DISPENSER WITH RECEPTIONIST SKILLS REQUIRED GP Dispensing Practice 20 Hours per Week Mon – Fri, NVQ level 2 qualification in Dispensing essential. Must be able to work without supervision and have own transport. Must be willing to cover holidays and sickness.
Closing date: 19 June 2009
Contact; Mrs Julie Allen – Julie.allen@nhs.net
To apply/more information:
St Werburgh Medical Practice
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Julie.allen@nhs.net

Broker

Canterbury
Salary: £20,791 per annum
Closing Date: 26/06/09
East Kent Mencap has been selected by Kent Adult Social Services to undertake a one year pilot to implement Self Directed Support in Dover, Canterbury and Thanet. Self Directed Support (SDS) means: • Better access to information, advice and guidance to support people in finding their own solutions. • People will be able to self assess with as much or as little support as they need to complete the assessment • Everyone who is eligible for social care will have a personal budget and know what money they have to plan their support • People will have control over the way the money is spent, so they can plan their own lives • Providing people with as much or as little help in directing their own support and managing the money as they need. This is a genuine opportunity for people with learning disabilities to realise a Personalised and independent future. Flexible and highly motivated Brokers will be vital in achieving successful self directed support outcomes. Brokers provide a skilled, technical service that is distinct from the role of advocates and separate from the role of assessment. The key functions of Brokerage are: • Planning • Service Design • Arranging Support Packages • Finance Management • Employing Staff We are seeking a full time broker for 37 hours per week to cover the Canterbury and Thanet Districts. We will consider part time posts. The successful applicant will receive full Brokerage training and work with Key Partners to develop and sustain generic services. For an application pack or more information contact Jason Gerlack CEO, East Kent Mencap (01843-224482)
To apply/more information:
Jason Gerlack
East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: BRK0001
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Jason.Gerlack
@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Broker

Thanet
Salary: £20,791 per annum
Closing Date: 26/06/09
East Kent Mencap has been selected by Kent Adult Social Services to undertake a one year pilot to implement Self Directed Support in Dover, Canterbury and Thanet. Self Directed Support (SDS) means: • Better access to information, advice and guidance to support people in finding their own solutions. • People will be able to self assess with as much or as little support as they need to complete the assessment • Everyone who is eligible for social care will have a personal budget and know what money they have to plan their support • People will have control over the way the money is spent, so they can plan their own lives • Providing people with as much or as little help in directing their own support and managing the money as they need. This is a genuine opportunity for people with learning disabilities to realise a Personalised and independent future. Flexible and highly motivated Brokers will be vital in achieving successful self directed support outcomes. Brokers provide a skilled, technical service that is distinct from the role of advocates and separate from the role of assessment. The key functions of Brokerage are: • Planning • Service Design • Arranging Support Packages • Finance Management • Employing Staff We are seeking a full time broker for 37 hours per week to cover the Canterbury and Thanet Districts. We will consider part time posts. The successful applicant will receive full Brokerage training and work with Key Partners to develop and sustain generic services. For an application pack or more information contact Jason Gerlack CEO, East Kent Mencap (01843-224482)
To apply/more information:
Jason Gerlack
East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: BRK0001
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Jason.Gerlack
@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Registered Nurses Level 1

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Full and Part Time positions available. ASSISTANT MANAGER EASTFIELD RESIDENTIAL HOME MAIDSTONE Minimum qualification NVQ111 with preferred experience in Dementia Care Salary negotiable For details contact Tina Thomas Mob: 07707038230 Email: Tina.Thomas@njch.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Pauline Matthews
Nicholas James Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 458116
Email managerharbledown @njch.co.uk
Assistant Manager
Maidstone
Salary: Negotiable
Minimum qualification NVQ111 with preferred experience in Dementia Care.
To apply/more information:
Tina Thomas
Nicholas James Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07707038230
Email Tina.Thomas@njch.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

Senior Operational Improvement Officer

Folkestone
Salary: £30,210
Closing Date:
Friday 5 June 2009
Salary up to £30,210 Shepway District Council are now looking for an experienced Senior Operational Improvement Officer to join their recently restructured Revenues and Benefits Service and who will have responsibility for managing the council's Operational Improvement Team. The person we are looking for will help drive the service forward by: ? Being customer focused ? Delivering leadership to your team ? Appreciating the importance of performance and getting results ? Being able to interpret operational plans to ensure service improvements/efficiencies are realised You will need to: ? Have at least 2 years' experience within a Revenues and Benefits or systems support environment ? Have excellent knowledge of Housing Benefit Legislation ? Have a track record of delivering customer-focussed services ? Demonstrate that you can work as part of a dynamic team In return we will reward you with a competitive salary, flexible working hours and a challenging career. If you think you would like to join us, please contact Mark Wilson on 01303 853389 for an informal discussion. Application details can be downloaded at below or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481. The closing date for completed application forms is Friday 5 June 2009.
To apply/more information:
Shepway District Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 853481
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk

Sales positions - full and part time

Kent
Salary: £66,000 OTE OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY £66,000 OTE Previous sales experience not required. Full & Part Time positions available.This is a fantastic opportunity for an ambitious, motivated individual who is dedicated to offering a totally unique service to help their clients. For further information call John Blackman, Cartel Client Representative, on: 01304 219218 or email: john.blackman@cartelreview.co.uk Positions available throughout the UK www.claimsreviewpeople.co.uk (A trading style of Cartel Client Review)
To apply/more information:
First Call Life Quote Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 219218
Email john.blackman @cartelreview.co.uk

Public Rights of Way Office (Enforcement)

Maidstone
Salary: £20,262 - £30,219 DOE Joining our Public Rights of Way Team, you will have considerable experience of Public Rights of Way or enforcement along with the ability to apply that experience in a pragmatic way to a range of challenging situations. You will be able to investigate reported breaches, prepare case papers and present evidence in Court to the highest standard and be able to develop similar skills in those around you. Communicating the requirements of the law effectively to a diverse range of groups with the intention of reducing the number of offences being reported is also required. With your excellent organisation and communication skills, you will juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of new technology. Your will be a team player, with either considerable proven experience of working with PROW or enforcement or be educated to HND or degree level in a related subject.
To apply/more information:
Graham Rusling
Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: ER/09/0040
Tel: 01622 696995
Email
recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Public Rights of Way Officer (Asset Management Delivery)

West Malling
Salary: Starting Salary £20,262 1 year fixed term appointment jwith possible extension subjet to funding. The Countryside Access Service is looking for a new officer to join them to delivery capital maintenance programmes across the county. A substantial proportio of the network sits within the Kent Downs and High Weald Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You will be joing a busy West Kent PROW Team, and will prepare and supervise programmes of capital works. Working closely with landowners, local councils and other agencies to secure all ncessary consents and permissions, the post carries a high volume workload so you will need to be able to juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of new technology. A team player, and competent to NVQ3 level in civil engineering, contract managment, estate managements, you will be able to demonstrat the same level of competency in a similar related area. The post also require a high level of motivation, a good knowledge of rights of way law and practice and excellent organisational and communication skills.
To apply/more information:
Graham Rusling
Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: ER/09/0041
Tel: 01622 696995
Email
recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Scheme Leader for NVQ Health and Social Care

Canterbury
Salary: Band 6: £24,831 - £33,436 p.a.
Closing Date: 16 June 2009
Based in Canterbury/West Malling. The KMPT NVQ Centre wishes to recruit a full time member of staff to take the lead in the delivery of NVQs in Health and Social Care. Ideally you will hold the Certificate in Education (post compulsory) and be qualified as an NVQ assessor. The internal verifier award is seen as essential, however if you do not hold this award, you will be supported to undertake it. In addition to this, you will be a registered nurse or hold an equivalent level four vocational qualification in health and social care. This is an exciting position in a rapidly developing centre that delivers NVQs to staff working within the Trust and to external candidates. For an informal discussion please contact Martin Hunt on 01227 812307 or email martin.hunt@kmpt.nhs.uk If your application is successful, you will be notified by e-mail.
To apply/more information:
Martin Hunt
Kent & Medway NHS
Quoting Job Ref: P910
Tel: 01227 812307
Email martin.hunt@kmpt.nhs.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales Executives

Edenbridge
Salary: TBA
Required at Harwoods, Land Rover. Candidates will pride themselves on their committment to excellence and outstanding customer satisfaction. Applicants must be smart and presentable with confidence, outstanding communication skills, an excellent telephone manner and capable of high levels of achievement. These are demanding roles for established sales people who must have a team approach, the ability to communicate at all levels and a proven sales track record. A basic salary together with an achievable bonus scheme will deliver excellent earnings. For an imediate interview please send your CV to:
gmerret@harwoods.uk.com
To apply/more information:
Harwoods of Edenbridge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
gmerrett@harwoods.uk.com

SALES AGENTS

Folkestone
Salary: £16k – £18k OTE
Closing Date: 12 June 2009
Opportunities in Home and Motor Insurance, Outbound, Private Medical Insurance and Broking £16k – £18k OTE (basic salary + uncapped commission) Excellent benefits package | FOLKESTONE Listening to customers. Taking the time to understand their needs. Building a real rapport with them. That's what we call doing things properly for our customers as we deliver great service, selling our products to people aged 50 and over. And if you can help us achieve that, we'll do things properly for you too. That means excellent training and development at every stage. It also means unlimited earnings potential and superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives. What's more, it means a friendly working environment – as well as all the training and support you need to do a terrific job. The question is, have you got what it takes to be part of this fast-growing national company? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure. You must also share our commitment to getting things right – every time. If you're interested in any of our roles within Outbound, Private Medical Insurance and Broking, relevant experience would be beneficial. If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing your CV, quoting reference SVS307/KOS, to Alice Forsyth, HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or e-mail:
human.resources@saga.co.uk Alternatively, please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website. saga.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SVS307/KOS
Tel: 01303 774888
Email
human.resources@saga.co.uk

Highways - District of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new waste water pipeline, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Alsops Road and Bentley Road, Ashford, from 15 June 2009, for an estimated period of 3 weeks or until the works are complete. Alsops Road will be closed for its entire length. Bentley Road will be closed between No.16 and the junction with Alsops Road.

The alternative route for through traffic for Bentley Road will be via Osborne Road, Breadlands Road, Twelve Acres and Hunter Avenue. There is no alternative route for Alsops Road; pedestrian access will be maintained at all times but vehicular access to Alsops Road and Sotherton will be severely restricted, and only available when safe to do so.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ROMDEN ROAD, SMARDEN) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Romden Road, Smarden, between the junctions of Dorking Lane and Pluckley Road, from 15 June 2009, for an estimated period of one week or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Dorking Lane and Pluckley Road.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A291 CANTERBURY ROAD, HERNE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Puffin Crossing Installation and associated carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on A291 Canterbury Road, Herne from its junction with Mill View Road to Albion Lane on or after 15 June 2009 for an estimated period of one week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A299 Thanet Way, A28 Canterbury Road, A28 Island Road and A291 Herne Bay Road

This order will come into force on Monday 15 June 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL OLD ROAD WEST, WOODFIELD AVENUE AND ELMFIELD CLOSE, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Old Road West, Gravesend, between its junctions with A227 Wrotham Road and Singlewell Road prohibiting traffic heading towards A227 Wrotham Road. This Order will also prohibit vehicular traffic on Woodfield Avenue, Gravesend at its junction with Old Road West. This Order will also prohibit right turns from Elmfield Close onto Old Road West, Gravesend.

The Order will become effective on 1st June 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These closures and restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: for light vehicles - Singlewell Road, Cross Lane West, New House Lane, Dashwood Road. For HGV's - Windmill Street, A227 Wrotham Road

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate gas mains replacement works.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL RYE LANE, DUNTON GREEN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Rye Lane, Dunton Green between its junctions with Pilgrims Way and Willow Park.

The Order will become effective on 1st June 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 1 day on the 1st June. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Pilgrims Way West, Telston Lane, Willow Park.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the replacement of a manhole for Thames Water

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL CLINTON LANE, EDENBRIDGE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Clinton Lane, Edenbridge between its junctions with Four Elms Road and Moorden Lane.

The Order will become effective on 1st June 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described will be via: Moorden Lane, Station Hill, Penshurst Road, Fordcoombe Road, New Road, Spring Hill, Ashurst Road, Hartfield Road, Mill Hill, Mount St Aignan Way, Station Road, Main Road, Spout Lane, Pootings Road and Clinton Lane.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the Repairs to road over rail bridge

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL VARIOUS ROADS, COWDEN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads as per the attached schedule.

The Order will become effective on 1st June 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last as noted in the attached schedule. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described will be as noted in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the replacement of Telegraph poles and the attached cables on behalf of BT.

Schedule 1

Road Name	Length of Closure	Diversion Route
Pigdown Lane 200m to the northeast of the Woodlands	2 days from 2nd June 2009	Uckfield Lane, Rectory Lane
Wilderness Lane 100m west of Wilderness Farm	2 days from 9th June 2009	Uckfield Lane and unnamed road
Moat Lane, Cowden 200m east of Sandfields Farm	2 days from 16th June 2009	Blowers Lane, Bassetts Lane

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL CHURCH STREET, SHOREHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Church Street, Shoreham between Filston Lane and A225 Shoreham Road.

The Order will become effective on 1st June 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 1 day on the 7th June. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Filston Lane, Twitton Lane, Pilgrims Way West, A225 Station Road, A225 Shoreham Road

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate access to BT plant to repair cable.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ROAD OF REMEMBRANCE, FOLKESTONE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because street lighting and cable replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Road of Remembrance, Folkestone from the roundabout with West Terrace to the junction with Marine Terrace and Lower Sandgate Road on or after 21 June 2009 for an estimated period of 1 week or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic westbound will be via Lower Sandgate Road, Harbour Street, Tontine Street, Dover Road, Grace Hill, Shellons Street, Middleburg Square, Cheriton Place, Sandgate Road and West Terrace. Traffic heading eastbound via West Terrace, Bouverie Place, Middleburg Square, Foresters Way, Foord Road North, New Street, Bradstone Road, Dover Road, Harbour Way, Ryland Place, The Tram Road, Harbour Street, Harbour Approach Road and Marine Terrace.

Highways - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ELM LANE, MINSTER-ON-SEA) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Elm Lane, Minster-on-Sea, between the junction of Chequers Road and 'Little Wootton's', on or after 8 June 2009, for an estimated period of 4 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Chequers Road, Chapel Street, Back Lane, Scocles Road and Nelson Avenue.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ELIZABETH ROAD, RAMSGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Street Lighting Renewal works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Elizabeth Road, Ramsgate for the entire length on or after 1st June 2009 for an estimated period of 4 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

There is no alternative route, local access only.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SANDHURST ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Sandhurst Road between Sherwood Road and Ferndale on or after Sunday 7th June 2009 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for northbound traffic via Pembury Road, Calverley Park Gardens, Calverley Road, Camden Road, Quarry Road, Grosvenor Bridge, Upper Grosvenor Road, Sandhurst Road and for southbound traffic vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway resurfacing. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Andy Padgham on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SPELDHURST ROAD, LANGTON GREEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Speldhurst Road, Langton Green from the junction of Leggs Lane to Bullingstone Lane on or after Sunday 7th June 2009 for 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via Speldhurst Road, Langton Road, Penshurst Road, Pounsbridge Hill, Leggs Lane and for northbound traffic vice versa.

Mr Knight apologises for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for the removal a boat.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (STANDEN STREET, IDEN GREEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Standen Street, Iden Green from the junction of Iden Green Road to Parkfield Crescent on or after Saturday 6th June 2009 for 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via Iden Green Road, The Street, Rolvenden Road, Ramsden Lane, Woodcock Lane and for northbound traffic vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for highway drainage works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Andrew Young on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHURCH ROAD, KILNDOWN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Church Road, Kilndown outside Whites Cottage on or after Monday 1st June 2009 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for northbound traffic via Chicks Lane, Rogers Rough Road and for southbound traffic vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install cabling in the carriageway, footway and verge. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Emma Orsborne of Amber Langis Limited on 01474 573831.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended by Section 14 of the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 and all other enabling powers, hereby has made the following order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in Column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto.

1. NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road (necessary highway maintenance/excavation in carriageway), that traffic on various roads in Tunbridge Wells in the schedule below, hereto should be prohibited.
2. In exercise of it's aforementioned powers, The Kent County Council hereby

Has made an order to prohibit through traffic on the roads described in Column 1 and 2 of the schedule.

The alternative route for each route is described in Column 3 of the Schedule.

3. The order may be cited as "The Kent County Council (Various Roads in Tunbridge Wells) (Prohibition of Traffic) Temporary Order 2009."

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

The Insolvency Act 1986
JOBFINDERS RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS LIMITED
(Company Number 03021943)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Kingfisher House, 21-23 Elmfield Road, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1LT, on 12 June 2009, at 2.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a statement of their claim at the offices of RJC Financial Management, Hayes House, 6 Hayes Road, Bromley, Kent, BR2 9AA not later than 12.00 noon on the day prior to the meeting. A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of RJC Financial Management, Hayes House, 6 Hayes Road, Bromley, Kent, BR2 9AA, on the two business days immediately preceding the meeting between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

Dated: 22 May 2009
By Order of the Board
D Lock, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986
C W SERVICES (KENT) LIMITED
Company Number 04384588

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Henwood House, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, on Wednesday 24 June 2009, at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act. Forms of proxy to be used at the Meeting, accompanied by a statement of claim, must be lodged at the offices of Vantis Business Recovery Services, Judd House, 16 East Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HG, the registered office of the Company, not later than 12.00 noon on Tuesday 23 June 2009. Vincent John Green of Vantis Business Recovery Services, Judd House, 16 East Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HG, is a person qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the Company, who, during the period before the day on which the meeting is to be held, will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated 7 May 2009
By Order of the Board
Mandy Campfield, Director

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004 APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Lamberhurst Vineyard, The Down, Lamberhurst**
Applicant: **David Smart**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation 27: Publication of an Addendum to a Development Plan Document (DPD)

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council published the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document (MDE DPD) on 20 March 2009 under Regulation 27. The Council has now published for public comment an Addendum to the plan setting out a series of technical corrections to the documents.

Copies of the Addendum to the MDE DPD will be available for public inspection, free of charge from Friday 29 May 2009 until Friday 10 July 2009 at the Council Offices at:

Gibson Building Gibson Drive Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4LZ	Tonbridge Castle Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BG
Between 8.30am and 5pm (Mon – Fri)	Between 8.30am and 5pm Mon –Fri Saturdays 9.30am and 4pm Sundays 10.30am and 4pm

Copies are also available for inspection at all libraries in the Tonbridge & Malling Borough area. Check with the library for opening times and days. The document can also be viewed and downloaded from the Council's website www.tmbc.gov.uk

Representations relating specifically and only on matters covered by the Addendum can be made on the special forms available from the same locations and sent to:

Policy Section
Planning, Transport & Leisure Services
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4LZ

or emailed to LDF@tmbc.gov.uk
BEFORE 5PM ON FRIDAY 10 July 2009.

Only representations which are made in writing or by email and arrive at the address specified and by the prescribed deadline will be considered.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Schedule 1

1. Specified Road	2. Section Affected	3. Diversion Route
Upper Dunstan Road, Tunbridge Wells	Queens Road to Stephens Road	Queens Road, A26 St John's Road, Somerset Road and Stephens Road.
Golford Road, Cranbrook	Tilsden Lane to Benenden Rd 'Castletons Oak' crossroads	Cranbrook Road, Benenden Road, A262 Tenterden Road, A262 Biddenden High Street, A262 Sissinghurst Road, A262 Biddenden Road, A262 Goudhurst Road, A229 Angley Road, Waterloo Road, St Davids Bridge, The Hill and Bakers Cross.
Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood	Knowle Road to Churn Lane	Pearsons Green Road, Churn Lane, B2162 Maidstone Road, Yew Tree Green Road, Crook Road, Pixot Hill and Mile Oak Road.
Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood	A228 Maidstone Road to B2017 Badsell Road	A228 Maidstone Road, B2017 Badsell Road and B2160 Maidstone Road.
A26 Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells	Pembury High Street to A21 roundabout	Old Tonbridge Road, A21 roundabout, Longfield Road, Liptraps Lane, Birken Road, Sandhurst Road and Pembury Road.
A267 Nevill Street/Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells	A26 Eridge Road to Roedean Road	A267 Frant Road, Roedean Road, Warwick Park. (HGV's) Broadwater Down, A26 Eridge Road and Nevill Street.
Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells	Upper Grosvenor Road to Albion Road	Grosvenor Road, Upper Grosvenor Road, Meadow Road, Goods Station Road, Victoria Road and Camden Road.
Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells	Queens Road to Sandhurst Road	Sandhurst Road, A264 Pembury Road, Calverley Road, Crescent Road, Church Road, London Road, Mount Ephraim, Grosvenor Road and Upper Grosvenor Road.
A26 London Road Tunbridge Wells	Nevill Street to Major York's Roundabout	A26 London Road, Church Road, Mount Ephraim, Bishops Down Road and Major York's Road.
A26 Eridge Road, Tunbridge Wells	Major York's Road to Neville Terrace	A26 London Road, A267 Nevill Street, Frant Road, Broadwater Down and A26 Eridge Road
Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook	A262 Goudhurst Road to A229 Hartley Road	A229 Hartley Road, Angley Road, A262 Goudhurst Road and Glassenbury Road.

Advance road works information boards will be placed prior to works commencing on site, giving details as to when the works are scheduled to commence and expected duration.

This order will come into force on Monday 1st June 2009, and will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/01066/FL – Aldon Farm Aldon Lane Offham West Malling Kent ME19 5PJ – Mr M And Mrs B Cimelli are applying for two storey extension, pitched roofs over dormer roofs and replacement garage. Reason: CA HH

TM/09/01078/FL – Land Opposite 155 And East Of Castle Way Leybourne West Malling Kent – Mr Sheldon Whittle are applying for change of use of land to travelling showpeople's site, siting of mobile homes and caravans for residential use and ancillary works to include 2.4 and 1.8 metre high timber fencing, new vehicular access, access road/track, sewage treatment plant, lorry/van and machinery storage area and associated hardstanding. Reason: DEPART GPI

TM/09/01091/FL – 18 Town Hill West Malling Kent ME19 6QN – Mr R Russell is applying for loft conversion with dormer window and first floor extension over side addition to provide stair access to 2nd floor room. Reason: CA HH

Reasons for the case being publicised:
CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART Application does not accord with the Development Plan
GPI Application is of general Public Interest
HH Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 21 June 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
31 May 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

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E-Class twins seek to revive reputation

By **STEVE LOADER**

FOR a motor brand that normally appears insulated against bumps and knocks suffered by others, Mercedes-Benz has had a roller-coaster ride in recent years.

Parent group Daimler, a pillar of German industrial strength, attempted expansion and failed miserably, dumping Mitsubishi at the altar, marrying Chrysler and then ditching her after seeing the full extent of the dowry – or lack of.

Doubts

The new Smart brand – sold through MB dealerships – had a stuttering start, with the roadster coupé and ForFour supermini both axed as Daimler battled to restore the troubled marque and concentrate on the original FourTwo city car.

Worst of all for Mercedes itself though were reliability doubts about the previous E-Class range (2002-2009); MB and its giant parent did not need this whispering campaign against its long-running mainstay model.

COMEBACK: New E-class (main) and coupe aim to add glamour to the Mercedes badge

The chief problem was electrical gremlins, but early cars also suffered brake problems and MB decided on a major overhaul and makeover in 2006: apart from targeting the main issues reported, all suppliers were also put through rigorous quality assessments and 1,000 facelift cars covered three million miles of arduous testing before the model was passed for sale.

The effort appears to have restored faith and paved the way for a new generation car arriving in showrooms for June, priced from £27,563.

This furthers known E-Class standards in safety and comfort, adds fuel savings of up to 23 per cent and lowers CO2 emissions to as little as 139 g/km.

The most notable safety development is the automatic emergency braking, activated when there is acute danger of a collision.

All nine engines, petrol and diesel, use direct fuel injection to boost efficiency and power and this explains the lower overall fuel consumption and improved emissions levels.

All models except the high-performance V8s qualify for MB's eco-friendly BlueEFFICIENCY label and the marque claims the new E-Class is the world's most aerodynamically efficient luxury saloon – four per cent better than its predecessor.

The new car marks the comeback of a coupé version; some glamour to boost recovery of the E-Class legend after the reliability battering of the mid-Noughties.

The coupé follows tradition by having no centre side or B-pillars – the side windows are fully retractable – and it is even more aerodynamic than the saloon. Coupé prices have yet to be announced.

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Hot BMW Z4 hits showrooms Page 63

New Golf a hole in one Pages 66-67

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09 09 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 200 MILES £10995
09 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS BLACK DELIVERY MILES £7995
09 58 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLACK 2000 MILES £10995
08 58 RENAULT MODUS 1-6 DYNAMIQUE AUTO PAS SILVER 1000 MILES £9995
08 58 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK 4000M £7495
08 58 FORD FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS BLUE METALLIC 2000 MILES £10495
08 58 FORD FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS BLACK METALLIC 3000 MILES £10495
08 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS RED 1400 MILES £7995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 SRI SPORT AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DOOR SILVER 1600 MILES £12995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 ELITE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR STAR SILVER 600 MILES £12995
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR ICE BLUE 4000 MILES £8995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR BLACK 4000 MILES £8995
08 58 NEW A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR BLUE 400 MILES £13995
08 58 NEW MODEL MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 500 MILES £9995
08 58 KANGOO 1-6 AUTHENTIQUE AUTO PAS INTENSE BLUE 400 MILES £8995
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER GREY 4000 MILES £7995
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1900 MILES £7995
08 58 SUZUKI SX4 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLUE 1800 MILES £9995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 1800 MILES £9995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 3000 MILES £9995
08 58 NEW YARIS SR AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR CHILLI RED 1600 MILES £10495
08 58 RENAULT MODUS 1-6 DYNAMIQUE AUTO PAS AIR MERCURY 1000M £9995
08 58 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3DR AUTO PAS 750 MILES £9995
08 08 SCENIC GRAND DYNAMIQUE 2-0 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 2000MILES £11995
08 08 NEW ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 4000 MILES £9995
08 08 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 6 SPEED AUTO 5DR AIR BLACK 1000 MILES £9995
08 08 MICRA ACCENTA PLUS 5 DOOR AUTO BLUE PAS AIR/C 2000 MILES £8995
08 08 MICRA ACCENTA PLUS 5 DOOR AUTO BLACK PAS AIR/C 1900 MILES £8995
08 08 FOCUS 1-6 TITANIUM AUTO PAS 5 DR ESTATE SILVER 4000MILES £12995
08 08 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR STAR BLACK 6000 MILES £8495
08 08 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR PANNACTTA 2000 MILES £8495
08 08 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 1800 MILES £10995
08 08 PEUGEOT 207 SE PREMIUM 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLACK 999MLS £10995
08 08 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLACK 2000 MILES £9995
08 57 RENAULT MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION 4DR AUTO GREY 9000 MILES £7495

COUPES & CONVERTIBLES

08 58 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS LATTE 2000 MILES £11995
08 58 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS LATTE 4000 MILES £11995
08 08 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT CC 1-6 AUTO CABRIOLET SILVER 2000MILES £12495
07 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS BLUE 500 MILES £12995
06 56 HYUNDAI 2-0 COUPE SE 3DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 7000 MILES £8995
06 56 MICRA CONVERTIBLE SPORT AUTO AIR/C BLADE SILVER 16000MILES £9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIQUE1-6 CONVERTIBLE AUTO GREY 10000 MILES £8995
05 55 MEGANE DYNAMIQUE1-6 CONVERTIBLE AUTO GOLD 13000 MILES £8495
05 55 MERCEDES 200 CLK KOMPRESSOR AUTO SILVER 15000 MILES £15995

FUSION & FIESTA

06 06 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE ONLY 50 MILES £7995
05 05 FUSION 2 1-6 AUTO PAS 5 DR PANTHER BLACK 20000 MILES £5495
04 04 FIESTA 1-4 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CRYSTAL GREEN 9000 MILES £4995
03 53 FIESTA 1-4 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 23000 MILES £4995

FORD FOCUS & C-MAX

07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 9000 MILES £9995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 7000 MILES £8995
07 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PASAIR/C OCEAN BLUE 3000 MILES £7495
06 56 FOCUS C-MAX GHIA AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 9000 MILES £8995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR OCEAN BLUE 8000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 MILES £7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR PANTHER BLACK 11000 MILES £6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR JEANS BLUE 17000 MILES £6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DOOR ALLOYS TONIC 14000 MILES £6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS ESTATE ALLOYS BLUE 14000 MILES £7995
05 55 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLUE 13000MLS £6495

CORSA

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OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO2 EMISSIONS (G/KM); C4 HATCHBACK RANGE: URBAN 5.7-9.1/49.6-31.0, EXTRA URBAN 3.7-5.1/76.3-55.4, COMBINED 4.4-6.6/64.2-42.8, CO2 117-175. C4 PICASSO RANGE: URBAN 6.4-11.8/44.1-23.9, EXTRA URBAN 4.7-6.4/60.1-44.1, COMBINED 5.3-8.4/53.3-33.6, CO2 140-197. GRAND C4 PICASSO RANGE: URBAN 6.4-11.8/44.1-23.9, EXTRA URBAN 4.7-6.4/60.1-44.1, COMBINED 5.3-8.4/53.3-33.6, CO2 140-197.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

A Vauxhall to pack power, poise and paraphernalia

VAUXHALL has produced its fastest ever estate car – and scariest, if you happen to be a German premium brand.

For the 325bhp 2.8-litre turbocharged V6 Insignia VXR Sports Tourer seems set to challenge equivalent Mercedes-Benz, Audi and BMW models, while significantly undercutting them when prices are confirmed.

Capable of hitting 60mph in six seconds, the Vauxhall flyer should have poise as well as packing a punch, thanks to its adaptive 4x4 chassis, and joins the Insignia VXR hatch and saloon already revealed by the General Motors brand – the VXRs are due here this summer.

Not surprisingly, Vauxhall marketing chief Andy Gilson is in bullish mood: "We've already seen a swing to the Insignia from premium buyers who'd never before ticked the Vauxhall box on their wish list, and we expect to see the same buying pattern emerge with all versions of the Insignia VXR," he said.

The Sports Tourer looks the part with its lowered suspension, 19-inch alloys and Brembo brakes, while the sharp-suited styling comes as standard on this classy replacement for the unlamented Vectra.

The only cloud on the Insignia's horizon is the financial woes of General Motors itself, casting a shadow over the future of Vauxhall and Continental counterpart Opel, both currently sweating on a possible tie-up with Italy's Fiat.

Yeti spotted in the UK

BRITAIN will gain a fifth Skoda model, when the VW-owned Czech brand launches the all-new Yeti.

The newcomer, due in September, is a crossover in the Nissan Qashqai mould that will be available in two and four-wheel drive, with rugged styling to suit the urban and rural runabout lifestyles that go with either format.

A higher ground clearance and short overhangs suggest it could be quite a capable off-roader, while still delivering economy and low emissions – something that stopped the 4x4 phenomenon in its tracks when consumers started to heed the global warming threat.

Prices and specs will be announced nearer launch.

Peugeot 4x4 for value

IN the meantime, Peugeot is promoting sales of its bigger 4007 4x4 crossover with a value-packed Sport XS special edition.

Priced at £24,695, just £1,450 up from SE entry model and £1,150 below the GT flagship, buyers gain 18-inch alloys, sports leather seats, sports body kit and spoilers, chrome side bars and a Bluetooth hands-free telephone feature amongst other extras.

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Z4 barnstormer hits dealer showrooms

by STEVELOADER

BMW's first Z4 roadster marked a radical change of style from its retro look Z3 predecessor – some might say too radical.

But the new model arriving at dealers is a slick development of the original and the German marque clearly saw no need to label it Z5.

However, one highly significant development has been applied to the new generation Z4 – a folding hardtop to match that pioneered by the Z4's arch rival, the Mercedes-Benz SLK.

Less obvious than the all-season, two-piece 20-second up or down roof, is the fact that the new car is also the first BMW to get the marque's adaptive M suspension, with electronically controlled dampers offering three settings to suit driving mood and lower ride height by up to 10mm.

BMW insists that even the most taut Sport+ setting is equivalent to the previous Z4's standard ride, suggesting that the loosest option will be relatively comfortable for a sports car.

Prices start from £28,650 with three six-cylinder petrol engines offered for now, including BMW's award-winning 3.0-litre twin-turbo unit used in the £37,065 flagship Z4 sDrive35i and developing 306bhp.

This powers that version to 60mph in 5.1 seconds compared with the £32,665 mid-range Z4 sDrive30i needing a second more, while the Z4 sDrive23i entry model takes 7.3.

All are electronically limited to a 155mph maximum but, despite their performance and larger size against the first generation Z4, consumption and emissions are surprisingly good; credit for this goes to BMW's weight-saving efforts and incorporation of its EfficientDynamics technology including recharging the battery by recovering energy lost through braking, electric power steering and reduced rolling resistance tyres.

However, the car's target market is probably more interested to hear that the boot can carry a full set of golf clubs anyway, but a second set can also be carried using an optional boot slot between the two seats.

WINNER: Samantha Beatty gets to drive new Alfa Romeo MiTo for six months

Win turned MiTo test into a six-month term

OPTING for a test drive in the hot new Alfa Romeo MiTo supermini was a winning choice for council officer Samantha Beatty.

It automatically entered her into a draw at Maidstone Alfa dealer Lipscomb that then gained her first prize – the keys to a £14,000 1.4 155bhp MiTo Lusso for six months.

Samantha, 30, from Rainham said: "I still can't quite believe it – it was such a nice surprise to get the phone call telling me I had won, and since I picked it up, I have absolutely loved driving it around."

Lipscomb dealer principal, Mark Stevens said: "Samantha is clearly overjoyed with the car. The attention the MiTo has received at Lipscomb is massive. It's a smaller more affordable model but one that exudes the class of the Alfa Romeo marque."

Alfa dealers like Lipscomb are pleased that the charismatic Italian marque has opted into the Government-backed £2,000 scrappage grant scheme; a motorist owning a 10-year-old car with a current MoT can secure the cash for use towards a new MiTo, starting from £8,995.

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Motability

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Aveo £350, Captiva £400). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost (Matiz and Aveo £249, Captiva £349). Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price at time of publication and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 30th June 2009. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev73029)

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions 132g/km. Captiva 2.4 Petrol LS 5-seat: Urban - 23.5 (12.0), Extra-urban - 39.8 (7.1), Combined - 31.7 (8.9). CO_2 emissions 217g/km. Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO_2 emissions 119g/km.

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MITSUBISHI Outlander II 2.0 DI-DC Elegance, 5DR, Estate, Diesel, 2008 08, 9,832 miles, Metallic Silver, 1 Owner, ABS, Alloys, Anti theft system, Body kit, Climate Control, Colour coding, Computer, Cruise control, Driver airbag, DVD.....£19,895

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MITSUBISHI LANCER 2.0 DI-D GS4 5dr UNREGISTERED, 5DR, Hatchback, Diesel, 2009, 10 miles, Metallic Silver, ABS, Alloys, Anti theft system, Body kit, Climate Control, Colour coding, Computer, Cruise control, Driver airbag, DVD.....£20,049

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DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

VW Golf SE

VW score a hole in one with new Golf

HAVING done much to push diesel power, Volkswagen is now putting weight behind a swing back to petrol.

And it is using twin forces behind the diesel boom – direct injection of fuel plus turbocharging.

The latter is nothing new to cars of course; unable to afford developing a bigger engine to rival German executive car rivals, Saab launched a blown version of its 99 saloon in the 1970s.

Rock solid

This cult car sparked many wannabes, including turbocharged superminis like the Renault 5 Turbo, but the technology then was a bit hit and miss.

Which could not be said of the turbo on the VW Golf 1.4 TSI (from £15,230) driven here. This delivers its 120bhp of power smoothly without the Jurassic period delay for which that old Renault was notorious. Plus, being a Golf, it also feels rock solid rather than held together with Blue Tak… like that Renault.

It has been deployed here to give what is a relatively puny engine extra punch when needed, without harming overall fuel consumption and emissions.

It is also the perfect partner to VW's new generation direct injection technology, which will surely revolutionise the petrol engine in the same way that common rail direct injection transformed the diesel.

Direct injection boosts compression, efficiency and pulling power, again without damaging the green credentials of the engine, while giving this Golf version all the sportiness most owners will ever desire.

Why push petrol though when diesel still delivers lower emissions and better economy?

Well, Europe's oil industry is still geared to high production of petrol, the fuel remains

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Motability

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cheaper and, as the VW technology shows, there is still fat to be shed from the petrol engine.

Indeed, experts say it will be harder for diesel rather than petrol engines to continue meeting increasingly tough emissions regulation.

As this Golf proves, pairing turbocharging and direct injection in this way – and there is a storming 160PS (158bhp) version of the 1.4 engine with a supercharger added for extra low-down punch – delivers lots of driving enjoyment for the money.

The test car seemed to skip along and bowl around corners. The diesel of equivalent output feels just as quick in the straight ahead, but the heavier engine shows up on the bends and undoubtedly wears tyres and front-end bits more significantly.

This Mark VI Golf chassis has been carried over unchanged from the previous generation; VW really pulled out the stops to make the Mark V the class leader for handling, at the cost of an uninteresting cabin.

With the car's platform already tried and tested, VW was able to apportion more interior budget this time and it shows in high quality, passenger comfort and seating, excellent yet lightweight sound insulation and superb ergonomics.

The Mark VI is slightly shorter but wider, though the wheelbase is the same. The effect is to make the car look lower and smarter while increasing cabin space and VW has made it hard for Mondeo/Passat class owners to argue against downsizing.

As I said, keen drivers are well catered for, yet VW also offers its new Adaptive Chassis Control (ACC) system, allowing three modes for suspension, steering and throttle response.

It is an impressive piece of tech, and 'Sport' plus the lively engine delivers a cut-price GTI to the hands on the wheel, but ACC adds £705 to the price of the car.

Before we all get excited about a petrol resurgence though, even VW can't see it happening overnight; diesels are expected to take 60 per cent of new Golf sales and the new 2.0-litre TDI 110PS/108bhp (from £16,175) diesel impresses with refinement and a claimed average of nearly 60mpg.

On the other hand, equivalent versions of our petrol is cost a grand less, are slightly faster and more nimble – diesel is under pressure now.

DrivingStats

- VW Golf SE 1.4 TSI five-door £16,520
- Garage stats: 4.2m by 1.78m five-door hatchback
- Powertrain: 1,390cc/120bhp turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 124mph and 0-62mph in 9.5 seconds
- How green?: group F (£125/year) road tax - 144g/km CO2 emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 45.6mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): *****
- Fuel tank: 55 litres/12.1gallons
- Insurance group: 7
- Warranty: three years/60,000miles.
- Website: www.volkswagen.co.uk
- Rivals: Audi A3, BMW 1-Series Hatchback, Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Mazda3, Seat Leon, Vauxhall Astra and Volvo C30.

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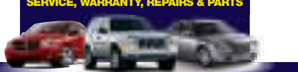

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FIESTA, Sport Van, ly57aju, panel van, alloy wheels, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, warranty, warrantied mileage, red, 4251 miles, £6999, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 3dr [Climate], gk06pov, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, silver, 6754 miles, £6995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto [Climate pack], ax56aco, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, call les bellchmabers 01474 537 537. insurance group:6, green, 10000 miles, £8995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

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GALAXY, 1.8 TDCi Zetec 5dr [6] - FULL LEATHER, gj07ydc, 10559 miles, £13495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Zetec [70] 3dr [Climate], air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, rear headrests, call les bellchmabers 01474 537 537. insurance group:4, blue, 4701 miles, £6995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

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ACCORD, 2.2 i-CTDi Sport Saloon 4Dr, 56/2006, sat nav system cruise control bluetooth phone system a/con steering controls front fog lights remote c/locking electric windows electricdoor mirrors alloy wheels boot spoiler, metallic blue, 84, 000 miles, £7995, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 2.2 i-CTDi Sport 5dr, oe56ewl, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, climate control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:10, silver, 31000 miles, £10995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

GETZ, 1.1 GSI 3dr, gf05cwu, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric windows, immobiliser, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering. insurance group:3, red, 40000 miles, £3495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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PICANTO, 1.1 LS 5dr, gj57cdu, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, central locking, driver airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, insurance group:3, red, 19232 miles, £4295, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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CI-CAR, 5dr Auto, gn08gzw, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, folding rear seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, tinted glass. insurance group:4, saving, silver, 500 miles, £7993, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Double Cab 2.5 Td Trojan, ej56ych, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, power assisted steering, remote locking. silver, 27000 miles, £8395, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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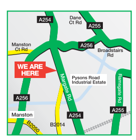

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L200, 2.5 Di-D Warrior Double Cab, dy07ovb, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, traction control. grey, 34000 miles, £10495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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LANCER, 1.6 Equippe 5dr Auto, gf57ylr, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:9, black, 15000 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr, gk08ycg, abs, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car, saving_, silver, 9000 miles, £12995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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107, 1.0 Sport XS 3dr, gj07tuv, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric windows, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:1, stripes. was, black, 9800 miles, £6490, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 Urban 3dr, gk57vxn, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, computer, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric windows, immobiliser, head restraints, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, remote locking, side airbags. insurance group:3, blue, 4587 miles, £6495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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CLIO, 1.2 16V Dynamique 3dr [AC], gf55gsy, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, immobiliser, head restraints, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, remote locking, side airbags, sports seats, sunroof. insurance group:3, silver, 14615 miles, £4795, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CLIO, 1.2 16V Campus Sport i-music 2007 3dr, al56law, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:3, blue, 16000 miles, £5495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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IGNIS, 1.3 GL 5dr, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, grey, 18000 miles, £4995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SWIFT, 1.5 GLX 5dr, gf06mrx, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:6, grey, 17000 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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CORSA, 1.4i 16V SXi 5dr Auto [AC], vn07ons, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, remote locking, side airbags, sports seats. insurance group:4, was, black, 15000 miles, £8495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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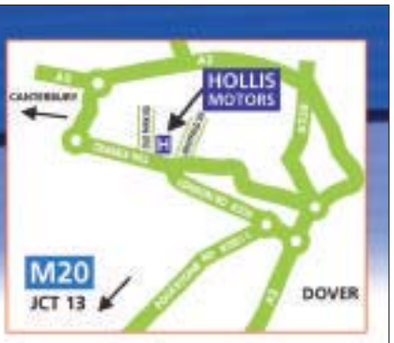

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We need Gerrard figure, say MPs

MORE MPs should have business backgrounds – and the nation needs a Steven Gerrard figure to drive it forward and out of recession, according to local MPs.

They were facing around 40 Kent directors at a breakfast meeting in Ashford this week organised by the county branch of the Institute of Directors.

Roger Gale, Conservative MP for Thanet North, Steve Ladyman, Labour MP for Thanet South, and Damian Green, Conservative MP for Ashford, were at the event sponsored by Maxim, the Tunbridge Wells PR and marketing agency.

The Liverpool and England football player surfaced during a Q&A session when the three were asked if there was anyone in Parliament with the vision to lead UK plc.

"Yes there is," replied Liverpool-educated Dr Ladyman. "Do I know who? No. There are many people with the skills and ideas, but whether they come together at exactly the right moment, that's what creates a Barack Obama.

"To say we want a CEO [chief executive officer] is wrong, it's a different skills set we need. It's a Steven Gerrard rather than a CEO we want."

The MPs united in the belief that the expenses row was masking important developments in Westminster and had stopped any debate over policy for the forthcoming local and European elections.

Cash bonus to create keep up apprentices

A BIG push has been launched to get more people – mainly youngsters – on apprenticeship schemes in South East building and electrical firms.

And the 'carrot' to firms is £30 a week for every extra apprentice if they meet certain criteria.

Top government advisors and regional business organisations have long realised that training youngsters and people who have lost their jobs will be a big factor in helping the UK get out of recession.

Now training provider Orpington-based JTL, one of the biggest in the country, is offering the government cash inducement, initially to employers already on its books to step up training, especially in the building sector.

Known as the Apprenticeship Expansion Scheme, the initiative will be targeted at first at firms on JTL's books which have a track record in providing well-trained apprentices and need support during the downturn to

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

expand their numbers. It already works with a total of 300 South East outfits and provides 300 apprentices.

Chief executive Denis Hird said: "Initiatives like this are very timely and welcome, everyone knows someone who is suffering in the present climate but if employers do not take a long-term view they will not have the skilled staff available to undertake future projects."

Workforce

The £30 subsidy will be paid for 12 months and payment is made to the employer by BACS upon receipt of the attendance record indicating that the apprentice has been present or authorised absent.

Full details from JTL training officers and apprentice applicants will go through existing rigorous JTL criteria before they are recommended to an employer.

Skills secretary John Denham said: "The businesses we have signed agreements with will be able to train more apprentices, thanks to the £11m of total funding.

"In these tough times we are determined to do all we can to support business to prepare for the upturn and continue to invest in improving the skills of the nation's workforce."

The Government is aiming to ensure suitably qualified young people will have the right to an apprenticeship place and over the next 10 years one in five young people will be able to start an apprenticeship with 400,000 apprentices on recognised programmes by 2020.

JTL apprentices are more likely to successfully qualify in their chosen occupation.

Around 70 per cent of the young people who have started each year with JTL will complete it, compared to a national average of 50 per cent. Across the nation JTL supports 10,000 apprentices and works with 4,000 businesses.

News and business updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Scheme to tackle shortage of talent

SOUTH East employers in science-based industries can design their own apprenticeships, thanks to a new initiative aimed at tackling a shortage of technicians.

Cogent – the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the chemicals and pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, nuclear, petroleum and polymer industries – is offering a faster and less bureaucratic way for these companies to bring on new talent.

Instead of having to go through the former Approvals Group process, as of August 3 employers can use the SSC to help them quickly identify apprenticeship needs specific to their sector – plus apply for funding.

And, if there isn't a suitable apprenticeship scheme already in existence, and employers comply with the Apprenticeship Standards for England, then they will be given the green light to design their own apprenticeship specially customised to their business.

The science industries in the South East turnover £22,000 every minute – contributing £4.4 billion to the UK economy – and employ 58,200 people across 5,400 companies.

Balance

Cogent apprenticeship manager Ian Lockhart said: "As of August 3, all the old methods of approving apprenticeships disappear. Any employer, training provider or further education college can submit an Apprenticeship Framework free of charge. Copies of the guidelines for this process can be optioned from the Cogent website."

Cogent's existing Apprenticeship Framework sets a clear and understood standard for its industries with the appropriate balance of generic and industry specific skills.

Its research shows that there are too few technicians coming into the sector and this project aims to reverse this trend, by tailoring the provision so it works.

Employers have said they value the scope that apprenticeship programmes can have for improving the selection and socialisation of young people who are prospective long-term employees, but their willingness to participate depends primarily on how they perceive the technical content of the vocational qualifications – and the relevance of these to their business.

'Ostrich' attitude blasted in report on major risks

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

NEARLY a half of businesses in the region haven't got plans to cope with an emergency such as extreme weather or technology failure.

Now they've been blasted in a report for their complacency and an 'ostrich approach' to warnings from government, insurers and customers about major risks which could hammer them.

In fact, they could easily face disruption and closure according to A Decade of Living Dangerously published by the Chartered Management Institute and Cabinet Office.

It reveals that despite employers fearing electronic attack and massive staff loss, many have failed to change contingency plans over the past 10 years.

Key findings include:

- Poor protection: Just 52 per cent have a plan in place to cope with disruption and 32 per cent of those who have plans don't actually test them, a figure which hasn't changed since 1999
- Weathering the storm: 51 per cent of business are worried about extreme weather and 34 per cent of organisations have plans in place to continue work in poor weather
- Possessions not people: Employers in the region seem more concerned with protecting physical assets such as IT than they do their people

The report says that despite pockets of improvement, some areas have shown a decline, leaving the overall picture near-stagnant when it comes to business readiness to face disruption.

It says organisations across the Kent and the rest of the South East are not doing enough to guard against technology and utility failures, enforced staff absence, or the impact of extreme weather.

Cash-flow

Many employers in the region are ignoring the concerns outlined in the National Risk Register, although in limited areas there have been improvements.

However, the report demonstrates that where resilience measures are undertaken, companies are better placed to survive and thrive.

Based on the views of senior executives from across the region, findings show that just 25 per cent of boards of directors in the region take responsibility for business continuity management. Yet, 62 per cent of employees suggest business continuity is seen as important by their employer.

Only 40 per cent of organisations have plans in place to cater for IT loss and only 31 per cent are prepared to cope with enforced absence of staff or severe weather.

In the current environment, 25 per cent have experienced problems due to negative publicity or damage to brand reputation resulting from poor business continuity planning.

Petra Wilton, director of policy and research at the Chartered Management Institute said: "Despite warnings, and in spite of the huge publicity surrounding natural and malicious disasters, it seems that employers still have a long way to go before they can claim to be truly resilient.

"Particularly now, with revenue and cash-flow under pressure, the last thing any business needs is disruption to their services.

"In short, the UK will continue to suffer lost revenue unless business continuity management is taken seriously from the top, and throughout organisations."

Bruce Mann, director of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office, says: "It is easy to put off attending to risks, and let thought of business continuity preparation slip down the agenda.

"This short-sightedness can be extremely costly. A failure to provide adequate protection could mean more than a minor headache lasting a few hours or days, but could mean a loss of trade to competitors and the eventual failure of an organisation."

Cruises prove more popular

MORE than 140 cruise ships with 273,817 passengers went through the Port of Dover's new facilities during the last cruise season.

It's the second busiest cruise port in the UK and the 2008 season saw a massive increase in traffic on the previous year with 12 more ships and 62,000 more passengers. The port says indications are that the port will be more popular next year.

Visit Kent is a key member of the Kent Cruise Partnership, which also includes the Port of Dover, English Heritage, Leeds Castle, Canterbury Cathedral, Dover District Council and the Kings Ferry Travel Group.

Dover Cruise Port will be hosting 500 travel agents for the UK Cruise Convention in Dover from June 17 to 19.

Bank puts on Brazilian day

A BIG banking group is trying to put a new face on the sector's slightly battered image.

HSBC's west Kent commercial banking team has organised an educational and fun day for businesses aiming at new international markets. It's organising a themed Brazilian day with opportunities to learn about new markets and also have the chance to do off-road driving and sample Brazilian cuisine.

Iain Hawthorn, west Kent commercial deputy head, said: "This is a great chance for businesses to learn how to move into new markets."

The event is on June 4, starting at 3.30pm, at Team Dynamics, Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells. Details from any HSBC commercial manager.

Hire company is the first winner of Euro green prize

HEWDEN, the UK's largest plant hirer with centres in Ashford, Dartford and Belvedere, is celebrating after becoming the first ever recipient of the European Environmental Award.

It saw off stiff competition from some of Europe's top rental companies and suppliers to pick up the award which recognises and promotes excellence.

Jointly organised by the European Rental Association and International Rental News, the event coincided with the first International Rental Exhibition in Amsterdam.

Brian Sherlock, director of Hewden Stuart, said: "This award is recognition of our commitment to the environment following our target of having all our depots ISO 14001 accredited."

Firm gets security to do even better

A £250,000 bank package has given Biggin Hill-based Radius Environments, an office facelift firm, the security needed to develop and expand.

It has national blue-chip clients including BP, MBNA and Ernst & Young.

New managing director Mark Lane has come in after running the major projects team for Knoll International, a previous supplier to Radius and one of the world's leading brands in office furniture.

As a result of Mr Lane joining Radius, Knoll has awarded a full dealership to Radius and the company has seen an increase in pipeline and orders. The NatWest package is under the Government's EFG Scheme.

Leading bus dealership buys depot

A SEVEN-figure investment has seen one of Kent's leading truck and bus dealerships buy the freehold of its depot near Hythe.

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

MC Truck & Bus has occupied the site on the Link Park, Lympne, since 2003, developing it into a strategic regional maintenance depot.

Under the deal the company, whose parent is MC Group, bought the property from Volvo Group UK with funding provided by Royal Bank of Scotland and legal advice from Kings Hill-based Vertex Law.

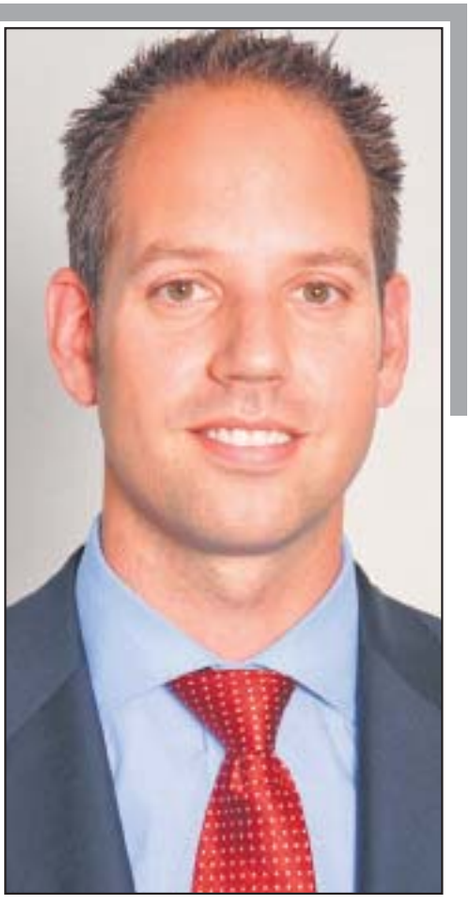
Specialist

Peter Booth, group financial director, said: "We plan to continue operating from the site for the foreseeable future and it makes sense financially to own the property."

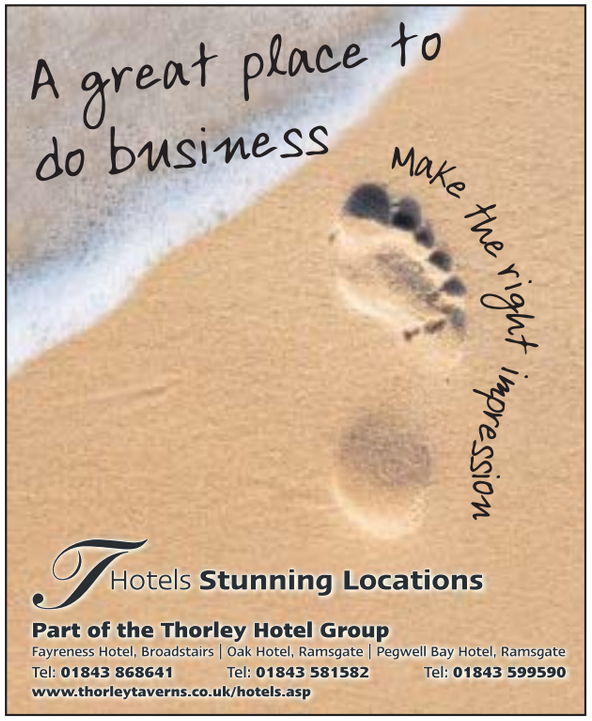
Jeremy Licence, from Vertex Law, who led the acquisition team, added: "This deal was interesting in the present climate because the bank was clearly keen to lend on the purchase. This demonstrates that, for the right borrower and the right deal, bank finance is apparently still available. This should provide some reassurance to the business community in these uncertain times."

The depot at Lympne is one of a network of eight across the South East that is operated by MC Group. The company, which has its headquarters in Aylesford, sells a range of commercial vehicles from Volvo, Hino and Isuzu.

MC Group has a specialist rental division and offers servicing, maintenance and fleet management services. The company also has its own dedicated training centre.



WORDS OF ADVICE: Jeremy Licence of Vertex Law



Four out of five women property owners say houses bring higher returns than money in the bank

WOMEN in property in the South East are confident about the future with more than a half planning to expand their portfolios in the next 12 months.

A further 28 per cent said the credit crunch had had no impact on their plans. Four out of every five said property brings better returns than money in the bank.

The findings are from the National Landlords Association (NLA) which also shows 45 per cent are providing a rent freeze for long-term tenants, while a further 14 per cent are introducing extras such as a free window cleaner every month.

And the NLA has also just launched its Property Women Awards 2009. Winners from each region will be selected as well as the Green Property Woman of the Year rewarding eco-conscious behaviour and the Young Property Woman of the Year for all women under 30 who have already made their mark on the property market.

An overall national winner will also be announced at the awards ceremony on July 23 in London. Nomination forms can be found online at www.propertywomenawards.org.uk and deadline is noon on June 12.

Benefits

Last year's regional winner for the South East, Hasmita Reardon, is from Sittingbourne.

She and her family were homeless when they arrived as refugees from Uganda in the 1970s – and she's now in a position to let houses to homeless tenants receiving benefits and owns 60 properties.

She said: "I took my first steps into the property market in 1997 when my father passed away and left me £30,000, which I decided to invest into three properties for my three sons.

"I enjoyed it so much it inspired me to start a property business, and I decided to carry on purchasing with the equity.

"I soon realised that I could not only own properties, but through my business start to make a massive difference to people's lives.

"Personal experiences in my past possibly makes me value a home more than others.

"I have learnt to think positive at all times, and every problem, however big, always has a solution.

"My goal is to own 100 houses this year, do a rent-to-buy scheme to help young people on the property ladder and to set up a second stage domestic violence refuge to enable women to start a new life."

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New vice-chairman who can direct co-operation

ONE of Kent's leading business groups, the Institute of Directors has appointed its first-ever vice-chairman – Andrew Metcalf, director of Tunbridge Wells-based Maxim PR.

He is a co-founder of the agency, which has a portfolio of clients including Business Link, Clydesdale Bank, E.on and the University of Greenwich.

The reason for appointing a new vice-chairman is that Kent has a great diversity in terms of business communities, and increasingly the IoD is being called upon to give its voice to many initiatives and represent members, as well as the wider business community.

So someone was wanted who knows the county well, knows the key influencers and is able to represent the major issues facing business.

Fellow IoD member, Jules Quested-Williams, director of Built for Marketing, has been elected the branch's events chairman.

She has been a member of the IoD for five years and specialises in sales and marketing, setting up her own business in Staplehurst last autumn working mainly in the built environment sector.

The new appointments replace Peter Reeves, of Arena Pursuits, the former events chairman, and Philip Jones, director of Maxim, who stands down from the executive committee.

Mr Metcalf said: "Life would be so much easier if businesses learnt that they should be working in co-operation with each other, rather than in competition against each other.

"We need to shout more about the quality of businesses in the county and persuade local firms and public sector that they can get professional services on a par with those offered in London, at more competitive rates. It's about getting Kent businesses to buy from Kent businesses."

Ms Quested-Williams said: "I'm a great believer in networking as the key to success and will be planning events that get people together. Our business breakfasts continue to be popular and many of the forums we are running, which are very useful, now have a waiting list of people.

"We've got great plans for this year's IoD sporting dinner and are working with Kent County Council on an Olympian theme with a few surprises for diners."

Frazer Thompson, chairman of the IoD in Kent, said: "Andrew will bring his energy, drive and passion to the committee and to the role. A successful local business leader, Andrew will help us develop a robust strategy to communicate and deliver the benefits of the IoD and of doing business in Kent.

"Jules has the creativity, determination and skills to help us create memorable high quality events that will refresh our members across the county as only the IoD can do. Jules is a natural successor to follow the excellence established by Peter Reeves and his committee over the last six years."

Our 'cotton wool kids' that never play outside

LET children go wild – so says an adventure programme company in reply to the latest findings from Natural England which show that woodlands, countryside and parks have become out-of-bounds to a generation of 'cotton wool kids'.

The survey, marking the launch of Natural England's One Million Children Outdoors, a programme encouraging more children to visit the countryside, found that fewer than 10 per cent of children played in natural places, compared with 40 per cent of adults when they where young.

Results also revealed that contact with nature has halved in a generation and that the overwhelming majority of children now want more opportunities to play outdoors, with more than 81 per cent of children saying they would like more freedom to play outside.

But Go Ape, which has seen over a million tree-trekkers at its high-wire forest courses across the country, including its locations at Bedgebury Forest and Leeds Castle, says it tackles the risk averse culture head-on.

Chief 'gorilla', Tristram Mayhew, says: "We are committed to doing our bit to keep the 'adventure' in adventure, and counter the epidemic of the 'cotton wool' culture which concedes to the notion that 'all risk must be bad'.

WILD CHILD: Go Ape now has 21 high-wire courses in natural locations

"We believe that zero risk equals zero development, and that responsible risk taking generates important societal benefits, such as building self-confidence and encouraging an 'I can' rather than an 'I can't' attitude."

Rebecca Mayhew, communications director, said: "Participants absorb valuable risk assessment and risk management skills, while having a naturally thrilling time on an environmentally responsible and sustainable activity."

Poul Christensen of Natural England said: "Whether through pond dipping or tree-climbing, nature-based activities can play an important role in the development of children. The natural environment is there to be explored by children, it is their right."

Go Ape was established in 2002 and is now one of the UK's fastest growing companies. It has 21 high-wire courses set in natural locations across the country with plans to launch a total of 40 by 2012.

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Seminars to give grievance update

EAST Kent law firm Girlings is holding two breakfast seminars to offer an update on new legislation relating to grievance and disciplinary procedures in the workplace.

The seminars, organised in conjunction with Kent Invicta Chamber, will focus on the new Acas Code of Practice. Partner Carl Vincent will provide an overview and the speaker will be barrister Monica Aggarwal, of Becket Chambers, in Canterbury, who regularly appears before employment tribunals.

The free seminars include Continental breakfast, and are on June 18 at Canterbury Christ Church University's Hall Place Campus in Canterbury and June 23 at Ashford Business Point.

Details on www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk or via booking hotline 01233 503838.

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A selection of comments from last years show

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"Perfect platform for finding new suppliers and networking"- Croner
"Excellent show got 56 leads with several proposals already out."- GEP Safety Consultants
"Excellent well run Show"- GSE Holdings

For more information and to book your space at this years event call Liz Hare on 01303 817172 or email liz.hare@constructionexpo.co.uk

Dreams start to come true for the Funky Fairy

NEW Bexleyheath entrepreneur Vicki Stewart has won the regional heats of a unique business competition to help find the next big independent retail talent. Now she's waiting to see if she can clinch the national final on Tuesday.

It's a government-backed initiative called Make Your Mark and it's being supported by the town's The Mall, NatWest and Royal Bank of Scotland to support development of local enterprise.

Ms Stewart set up children's wear firm the Funky Fairy 18 months ago, with new products from America and Australia, which were then not found in the UK.

She's now the only UK supplier of the Trumpette brand of baby socks and tights designed to look like shoes.

She said: "The future is full of exciting products coming through which will change peoples' lives that have babies and toddlers. There is a need to fill the market with something different and the need for babies and children to be spoilt, look lovely and individual."

The Funky Fairy goes forward to the national finals to be judged by a panel of UK business leaders including Peter Ibbetson, chairman of NatWest and RBS Business Banking, Ken Ford, chief executive of The Mall, Harry Rich, chief executive of Make your Mark, Tim Campbell, winner of The Apprentice and founder of The Bright Ideas Trust and Stephen Alambritis, head of public affairs at the Federation of Small Businesses.

The winner will get a retail start-up package worth £15,000.

Plans drawn up to showcase all things Chinese

PLANS to build an exhibition and conference centre at Manston to promote China have been drawn up as part of the mega China Gateway project.

Developer Commercial Group Properties has signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation to set up a joint venture, according to Property Week.com.

So far CGP has been unavailable for comment. Reporter Deirdre Hipwell wrote that the joint venture will build, fund and let the centre and that the AIM-listed company said the venture will also include an 'industrial hub' encompassing a wide range of activities, businesses, organisations.

The centre will apparently promote 'Chinese business in all its myriad guises' to the UK and EU, as well as the massive nation's arts and culture, tourism and natural beauty and investment into China.

It is understood the centre will be managed, promoted, developed and maintained by CGP or a subsidiary or nominated company.

Phase one of the China Gateway has received planning permission, but phases two and three will have to wait for possible redesignation of land use around the area.

David Foley, chief executive of Thanet and East Kent Chamber, said the whole project could bring around 1,200 jobs to the area. However, environmentalists are against the proposal.

A deal has been signed with Chinamex, an investment company backed by the Chinese Government.

Stepping up to the mark for Olympic badge

TWO Kent groups have shot off the blocks and become some of the first to receive the new Inspire Mark – the badge of the London 2012 Inspire Olympics programme.

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

A ground-breaking new online resource created by staff linked to a degree course at the University of Kent, and the PULSE project of social enterprise company Future Creative, have been given the award.

The London 2012 Inspire Mark signals innovative and exceptional projects that are directly inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Inspire culture projects are a key part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

The website, which will provide a wealth of information, contacts, production support and expert advice for the outdoor performance sector across the country, is the brainchild of Gavin Carver, course director for the university's creative events degree based at Medway campus.

Festival

Mr Carver's COPOR project – which stands for Celebratory and Outdoor Performance Online Resource – has been developed by staff from Kent's web team during the past year, and is due to go live this summer.

It will offer a 'one-stop shop' for anyone with an interest in this field, from creative arts professionals to community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations.

The accolade also means that Kent becomes the first university in the South East where staff have received the Inspire Mark for one of their projects.

Mr Carver said: "The core idea was how we might support community celebrations with some kind of digital 'tool-kit' for making outdoor performances. Street and celebratory arts have very little academic information to draw on, so I'm hopeful this will provide a ground-breaking resource for the sector."

The COPOR project has also been funded and supported by Arts Council England, Kent County Council, South East England Development Agency (Seeda) and Medway Council.

In 2008, Creative Events student Berna Ucel was selected by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to help produce and stage-manage the handover ceremony at the end of the Beijing Games.

PULSE aims to develop young people to become cultural entrepreneurs of the future. It's supporting young people aged 11 to 24 years to develop partnerships with eight Kent-based cultural organisations.

The young people will design and lead public cultural events throughout Kent based on expertise of each cultural partner organisation. The events will involve new cultural work being performed or commissioned in each instance and include a variety of dance, theatre, music, community art and sculpture and street festival.

The next event will be held at the Orange Street Music Club in Canterbury on June 8 in partnership with Music for Change.

GETTING YOU THERE: P&O and Eurostar are both doing well in the tourism market

Trains, boats and success

EUROSTAR, the fast track to Kent from mainland Europe, and cross-Channel operator P&O Ferries have joined Visit Kent.

Eurostar, with more than 9.1 million passengers in 2008 – an increase of 10.3 per cent on the previous year – turned in its best performance in its 15-year history.

Owen Welch, commercial manager, puts record passenger levels down to Eurostar's reputation for punctuality and speed – it takes only one hour and 41 minutes from Brussels to Ebbsfleet International.

Eurostar is reckoned to be the world's first train operator to make all journeys carbon neutral, at no extra cost to travellers.

P&O Ferries, claims to have the largest fleet of ships, the most comprehensive route network and the most frequent passenger and freight services to the Continent. Its Easter bookings to Kent were up 12 per cent compared to last year. Simon Johnson, sales and marketing director, said: "All-inclusive ferry fares that cover a car and passengers are tempting families away from flying as they try to make their money go further.

"At a time when many travel pundits say the bottom has fallen out of the of the overseas Easter tourist market, we're bucking the trend."

Sandra Matthews-Marsh of Visit Kent, said: "We are delighted to have Eurostar and P&O on board, especially in the second year of our Europe campaign."

Movers & Shakers

A GROUP of 11 women from Kings Hill-based Vertex Law hope to have raised more than £2,000 for breast cancer research after a walk in the dark. The team, led by Shelley Taylor from Sevenoaks, tackled the 13.5 mile Half Moon at Moon Walk 2009 in London's Hyde Park. It was Shelley's fourth Moon Walk having previously successfully completed two Half Moons and one Full Moon, which is over the full marathon distance. She was inspired by a friend's successful battle against breast cancer five years ago. Their walk was preceded by a day of fund-raising at Vertex's office.

NATIONAL recruitment and business services group, Ashford-based HR GO plc, has appointed Steve Carter, right, to its board of directors.

He is managing director of specialist information systems and support company, Eclipse Group Solutions, one of HR GO's joint venture (JV) companies within its group, established in 1996.

Chairman Jack Parkinson said: "This is the first time we have welcomed an MD from one of our JV companies to the board. I am sure Steve will bring a wealth of operational experience and expertise, coupled with a fresh perspective."

HR GO plc is one of the top 60 recruitment companies in the UK and has recently been awarded Company of the Year 2009 in the PLUS stock market awards.

The business, with more than 50 years' experience, turns over around £90m and employs about 450 permanent and more than 4,000 temporary staff nationally.

MAZDA UK is sponsoring the British Aerobatics Foundation Scholarship Scheme co-ordinating the fund-raising that helps talented young pilots to enter the sport.

The scheme identifies candidates who demonstrate the essential aptitude and commitment criteria needed to succeed in the field of aviation and who have the ability to concentrate on physically demanding air manoeuvres while under psychological pressure.

Each year the BAeF selects one pilot from five or six candidates who compete head-to-head in a fly-off consisting of a series of aerobatic manoeuvres.

BROOKS Macdonald Asset Management, a specialist wealth management company, has opened a new office in Tunbridge Wells.

Situated in Mount Ephraim Road, it is led by Pam Beith. The expansion is in keeping with the steady growth of the firm, which has been established in London for 17 years and has opened offices in Manchester and Winchester in the last four.

Andrew Shepherd, joint managing director, said: "Our latest interim results and the launch of our Tunbridge Wells office gives us much to be happy and optimistic about in these difficult economic times."

GOING the extra mile will be no problem for Buzzlines' new UK and European operations manager Dean Chatburn, right.

He is a veteran of 12 marathons including the Marathon des Sables – a six-day 151-mile endurance race across the Sahara desert in Morocco.

The coach and tour operator has appointed fitness fanatic Dean, 44, to oversee all vehicle operations across all the company's sites.

He will be based at headquarters at Lympne, near Hythe.

Father of two Dean, who went to Dover Grammar School for Boys, has more than 22 years' experience in the logistics side of the freight industry to bring to his role, most recently for a firm distributing 400 tonnes of freight around Britain daily.

Dean, who lives in Shepherdswell, said: "It's not as big a departure from my previous role as it may seem. Although what is being moved around has changed from freight to people, the principles underpinning it are ultimately the same."

The company operates a fleet of more than 50 luxury vehicles, ranging from seven-seat 'mini-limos' to 74-seat double deck coaches, and has more than 60 employees.

HSBC has appointed Iain Hawthorn, right, as commercial head for the west Kent area. He has been working for HSBC in the county since February 2006 and lives in West Wickham.

He said: "There is a lot of international trade in west Kent which is where our global links make the job of helping our customers very rewarding. Also, there is a strong enterprise culture among businesses in the area."

LAW firm, Brachers, has appointed three new partners and an associate. Bill Butler (partner) and Sarah Webster (associate) have been promoted within the commercial property group. Darren Stevens (partner) has been promoted within the firm's HR and employment team, while Shirley Moore (partner) leads the debt recovery and insolvency team, which is reckoned to be the largest for a law firm in the south. Also, the firm has converted to a limited liability partnership (LLP).

Timeline

Kent on Sunday sport takes a look back at the county's sporting action of yesteryear

1909

100 YEARS AGO – ARTHUR Fielder and Colin Blythe were in unstoppable form for Kent as they recorded an emphatic win over Yorkshire.

The combination of Fielder's right-arm fast bowling and Blythe's swing forced Yorkshire to follow on 250 runs behind, but dropped catches allowed them to set Kent a victory target of 115.

Edward Dillon and Kenneth Hutchings both failed to score, but a brilliant, unbeaten 59 from Edward Humphreys steered Kent home for the loss of three wickets.

1959

50 YEARS AGO – MARGATE chairman WH Graham pleaded with supporters to stop "pulling the team to pieces" when things were going against the side.

A promotion push was unveiled, in a bid to stop falling attendances. "It is felt that only a winning side will be followed," an official said. "It is better to try and fail than not to try at all."

Crowds had dwindled by an aggregate of 10,000 over the previous season, to a total of 75,755 for the 1958/59 campaign (an average of around 3,000 per game) but the club had raised £1,700 towards the installation of floodlights at Hartsdown Park and more than 9,000 individuals had contributed in some way.

1984

25 YEARS AGO – JIM Thompson predicted Maidstone United would be playing second division football by 1990, ahead of the Football League AGM in London. Support for the Stones' election to the league was mounting. Colin Bateman in the Daily Express wrote: "Maidstone's case is hard to deny.

"They are champions of the Alliance Premier League, their picturesque, compact ground in the wealthy commuter belt also houses greyhound racing and Rugby League…"

Joe Melling of the Mail on Sunday tipped Hartlepool to make way: "The sad inability of Hartlepool to break the habit of failure is likely to be Maidstone's most destructive weapon."

Not destructive enough, as it turned out.

Kingsmead a public success turned sour

Going over old ground

By FRED ATKINS

Picture: CANTERBURYCRUSADERS.CO.UK

CROWD PULLER: Canterbury Crusaders attracted up to 7,000 speedway enthusiasts

IF EVER a sporting venue went to the dogs, it was Canterbury's Kingsmead Stadium.

Built on the site of an old rubbish tip, it housed football, athletics, speedway and even wrestling. Greyhounds then moved in, before the slide back down the evolutionary scale was completed when property developers took over.

Kingsmead was once a noble venture, a stadium built from public donations to replace City's old ground at Bretts Corner.

Revived

A side called Canterbury City had played at Wincheap Grove from 1901, but didn't survive the decade and though other senior sides came and went, the name 'City' wasn't revived until three years after World War Two, when a new club joined the Kent League.

They moved into Kingsmead in 1958, but when Canterbury played football there, the venue generated so little atmosphere one might have been attending a party that had just been killed by the floor-clearing Russ Abbott tune of that name.

"You just couldn't compare Kingsmead with Bretts corner," the author Dave Elliott said. "And the main problem was the distance between the fans and the pitch."

City had their moments at Kingsmead, notably in the FA Cup, when 3,000 watched them lose 6-0 to Torquay in 1964, but with success, fleeting gates dwindled to three figures and then, on one infamous occasion, just 13.

For a time the venue was kept going by speedway. The Canterbury Crusaders, who started racing in 1968, pulled in crowds of up to 7,000, during their two decades of existence.

In that time they won two national titles, in 1970 and 1978 and staged a number of international fixtures, but they also had to go to court for the right to keep staging meetings and eventually had to give up in October 1987, when the noise became too much for the neighbours.

Greyhound racing took over for a while but City's fortunes seemed to decline in synch with the venue's.

In 1994 they dropped into the Kent League and by the end of the millennium they had abandoned the ground.

Having struggled to get crowds in their home city, even fewer people were prepared to watch them in Faversham and the 2000/2001 season finished the old club off.

They finished rock bottom of the Kent League and in one game had four players sent off – one player for every point they won during the campaign.

City's subsequent resurgence in the Kent County League is one of the happier stories of the past decade. Kingsmead's fate, a public success story turned sour, was sadly different.

Indy points for Conway

HAVING got off the mark in the Indy Racing League at the fourth attempt last Sunday, Mike Conway will be looking to build on his relatively modest points total this weekend when he competes in round five of the championship in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Life on the Indy circuit hasn't been too easy for Sevenoaks driver Mike Conway, who joined the Dreyer & Reinbold racing team at the start of the year, after spending 2008 on the GP2 circuit with Trident Racing.

In his first outing for his new team he crashed out on the first corner St Petersburg, Florida and was beset by mechanical problems before spinning off at Long Beach, California, in the second event.

It was third time unlucky when he clipped the wall in Kansas and his preparations for the showpiece event in Indianapolis itself were hindered when he span at 220mph during practice and suffered bruised ribs and concussion.

Remarkably he was discharged from hospital in time to start in 27th place on the grid and over 200 laps managed to overhaul a number of drivers before finishing 18th, behind race winner Helio Castroneves.

IMPROVEMENT: Racer Mike Conway finished 18th in round four of the Indy 500

The result was enough to give the 24-year-old 21 points.

Dario Franchitti leads the series with 122 points, five clear of Castroneves and eight ahead of third-placed Ryan Briscoe.

Blow-out woe for Doran

LIAM Doran of Sittingbourne is fourth in the overall standings for the British Rallycross Championship and doubtless cursing his luck after mechanical failures robbed him of two probable victories last weekend at Lydden Hill.

Doran, driving for Ford Fiesta ST ERC made a sensational start to the first race, surging into the lead from third on the grid.

However, just as he seemed poised to take the chequered flag his tyre blew out and Ollie O'Donovan and six others swept past him.

In the superfinal event the luckless Doran was again well-placed when his front left wheel broke and subsequently fell off, leaving him to settle for a disappointing sixth place.

He can at least console himself with the knowledge that he wasn't the only driver to suffer technical problems.

O'Donovan's Peugeot 306 suffered a misfire and Pat Doran was also hindered, leaving Steve Hill to profit and move into the lead in the overall standings.

Doran now has 79 points from four rounds. Hill of Mitsubishi Lancer has 103, Pat Doran of Ford Fiesta has 100 and Gibson of MG Metro 92.

UNLUCKY: Liam Doran suffered a blow-out as he was set to take the chequered flag

The other class winners were James Bird in the SuperModified, Ryan Lawford in the Stock Hatch and Brad Bailey in the Junior.

The next event takes place at Lydden Hill on August 31.

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No time to waste

LOOKING AHEAD: Mark Stimson has released players, renewed contracts and met transfer targets as he readies Gills for their League One challenge
Picture: ADY KERRY

Stimson preparing Gills for League One

By DAVID PRITCHARD

GILLINGHAM manager Mark Stimson met with several transfer targets this week as he attempts to catch up on his rivals in building a squad capable of making the step up to League One.

With the Gills taking the play-off route to promotion, they are three weeks behind the rest of the division in preparing for next season.

The first part of the job - deciding what to do with the players at the club out of contract this summer – was largely taken care of on Tuesday. Seven players were released, three offered new deals and the club took up an option on two to keep them for an extra 12 months.

Assuming the players offered contracts sign them, it gives Stimson a core of around 16 players plus a smattering of youngsters to build on.

Plans for next season have been in place for almost two months, but could only be put into action once the club knew which division they would be in next season.

Meetings with targets were scheduled to take place last week, but despite securing promotion, Stimson is not anticipating having huge sums to spend.

He said: "I'm sure the chairman will let me know in a week or two. I'm not expecting any cash to go and buy someone, but there are a lot of good players out there on free transfers, so we'll probably look down that route.

"If he did come up with a sum of money then we'd look to spend it in the right way like we did with people like Simeon Jackson, Garry Richards, Stuart Lewis, etc.

"They have not cost fortunes but they've helped get the club back to where we were when I took over, which is very important."

What's needed

WITH Simon Royce expected to sign a new contract and Alan Julian waiting in the wings to take the veteran's number one jersey, the Gills have no goalkeeping worries.

Even if they can keep Simon King, a centre-back will be needed. Mark Bentley showed he could fill in when King or Richards was injured last season, but the squad needs more than two senior specialist centre-backs.

A left-back to provide competition and cover for John Nutter would also be preferable, although with Mark Stimson extending teenager Tom Wynter's contract, it may not be a priority.

With four midfielders released this week, the middle of the park needs bolstering. Luke Rooney joins from the youth set-up full of confidence but is likely to need time to adapt. One option is Josh Wright, who returned to Charlton after improving in a loan spell that finished with 90 minutes at Wembley last Saturday.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

TARGET: Glenn Poole (right) could be reunited with Dennis Oli

On the wings Stimson would love to agree a deal with Andy Barcham, but is also likely to be interested in Glenn Poole. The 27-year-old played under the Gills boss at Grays and was heavily linked with a loan move from Brentford in March. He has since been released by the Bees, so is available.

As with many clubs this summer the key area Gillingham will hope to strengthen is in attack. Assuming Simeon Jackson stays, the club need another goal scoring centre-forward. Charlton's Chris Dickson remains a target and is a hugely popular figure at Priestfield since netting 11 goals in 14 games during the 2007/08 season. The problem is Charlton seem keen to keep the striker and following their relegation, Dickson could get more of a run in the side.

Promotion to boost Gills' crowds

PROMOTION and a series of games against local rivals are expected to put an extra 1,000 on average attendances at Priestfield next season.

The boost in gate figures would run into hundreds of thousands of pounds for Gillingham, who banked up to £400,000 from their play-off victory last weekend.

By a quirk of geography, League One is top heavy with clubs from the south next season. Of the four teams promoted from League Two and the three teams relegated from the Championship, Norwich are the most northerly.

Gillingham's promotion means 16 of the 24 teams in the division hail from south of Birmingham, nine of whom are less than 100 miles from Priestfield.

Throw in games against rivals Brighton, Charlton, Millwall and Swindon, plus the Wembley feelgood factor and it should guarantee a spike in attendance.

FANBASE: Gills are expecting bigger crowds

Mark Jones, Gillingham's chief executive, said: "It's excellent for the club financially.

"League One is like a mini Championship next season with the likes of Leeds, Norwich and Southampton. It will certainly help attendances – we averaged 5,200 last season and we would be hoping for 6,000 or more next season."

The figure is still only a fraction of the 30,000 who travelled to Wembley last weekend to cheer the club to victory at Wembley. Thousands also turned out for a victory parade in Medway last Monday to celebrate promotion.

Jones acknowledges most will not have been to a single game this season, but sees it as an opportunity rather than an irritation.

He said: "I don't think we are frustrated by it, we want to find out what we can do to get them in. It shows the enthusiasm and enjoyment that people get coming here."

The club are set to announce revised season ticket prices next week. About 2,600 renewed at the cheaper price before Wembley and Gillingham are optimistic of selling another 1,000 before the season starts in August.

Daish deadline

EBBSFLEET'S website owners have until tomorrow afternoon to decide the future of manager Liam Daish (pictured).

After a club meeting held at Stonebridge Road on Thursday night, the Fleet manager told the MyFootballClub members' board and officials from the club that he would like to be given the opportunity to continue his role as boss next season.

With the agreement of members, Daish will then begin to build the club's coaching and playing staff, within the budget set by members likely to be 50 per cent lower than last season's.

The deadline is 12pm on Monday.

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Stars out in the Open

Crowds flock to the London Club as top golfers battle for European title

A WORLD-class field descended on the London Golf Club this week as it hosted the European Open for the second successive year.

No fewer than six of the 155-man line-up are former major winners, with world number four Sergio Garcia the highest-ranked player at the club near Ash.

Playing with defending champion Ross Fisher for the opening two days, the Spaniard attracted some of the largest galleries, with hundreds following for all 18 holes.

Garcia was among the players under par in Thursday's first round, along with rising star Rory McIlroy.

Birdies

The 20-year-old from Northern Ireland is tipped to be one of the sport's biggest names after winning his first tournament earlier this season and he entertained the crowds with five birdies to finish three-under-par.

At the other end of his career to McIlroy, Colin Montgomerie showed why he has won 31 titles on the European Tour with a steady two-under-par.

The fans also had local interest in the form of Tenterden's Benn Barham, who needed an improvement on Thursday's round of 73 to make the cut for the weekend.

• ***The tournament finishes today. For the latest news from the club and all the reaction from the winner, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.***

FREEBIE: Thousands took advantage of the opportunity to watch some of the world's best players for free on Thursday

Pictures by **ADY KERRY**

YOUNG GUN: Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy is a Major winner in the making

EL NINO: Spain's Sergio Garcia, the highest ranked player in the field, hacks his way out of the rough

VETERAN: Scotland's Colin Montgomerie showed glimpses of the form which once made him the European PGA's top player for seven years in a row

LOCAL HERO: Benn Barham of Ashford needed to better his one-over par round of 73 on Thursday to make the cut

DEFENDING CHAMPION: Ross Fisher was in need of birdies on Friday if he was to challenge for the title he won so impressively at the London Club last year

UNDER PAR: Peter Hanson of Sweden was among the leaders after the first round

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Stevens return boost for Spitfires

Picture: ADY KERRY

INJURY: Darren Stevens fractured his finger

THE return of Darren Stevens from injury is the boost the Kent Spitfires need in their bid to regain their Twenty20 crown, according to director of cricket Graham Ford, ***writes Glenn Pearson.***

The all-rounder missed the whole Friends Provident Trophy campaign with a spiral fracture of an index finger, but returned in true swashbuckling style in Kent's 62-run win against the Middlesex Panthers at Lord's on Wednesday night.

The former Leicestershire man smashed an unbeaten 59 from just 26 balls which included 10 fours and a six to help the Spitfires avenge their defeat to Middlesex in last season's final.

With the 33-year-old back to bolster the middle order, Kent's batting line-up looks far more complete.

Ford said: "Let me tell you that other sides would die to have him playing the way he did at Lord's. If we can get him in that kind of form it's going to be good for us. In that type of mood he takes the game away from the opposition so we are hoping he maintains that sort of form as he is a great weapon."

Another to have returned to the Kent ranks is South African Ryan McLaren who has been away with the Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League. The fact he didn't feature in the competition means he is fresh and ready to go, according to Ford.

"He is raring to go and really boosts our bowling attack, his quality will help us get through the first six overs which are crucial in Twenty20," he said. "The other thing is he is such a good fielder that he ignites and gives us energy on the field."

While McLaren and Stevens are back for the Spitfires, skipper Rob Key will miss the remainder of the Twenty20 campaign as he joined up with England ahead of next month's World Twenty20.

The 28-year-old has struggled for form in the early part of the season but Ford has seen enough in the nets to claim that somebody is going to "cop" one soon.

The South African was keeping his cards close to his chest and wouldn't divulge who the county were looking to open the innings with Joe Denly in Key's absence, but did say it would present an opportunity for another batter.

"It's a distraction for sure," he said. "In Twenty20 in the last few years he has been huge for us. I think a lot of guys want to make contributions and what this does is create a great opportunity for someone else to step up the plate and fill his big shoes."

• ***Kent take on the Sussex Sharks at St Lawrence today, with play due to start at 5.30pm.***

England recall is a massive boost for me

Things looking up at last for Kent skipper ahead of World Twenty20

Picture: ADY KERRY

I WAS thinking of beginning this column with a full account of how I took my maiden first-class wicket – Northamptonshire's David Willey in our opening County Championship match – but the upcoming ICC World Twenty20 is probably a little bit more important.

It is very important for England and, of course, it is very important for me. After a while out of the senior England set-up, to be selected for this tournament is a huge boost to my career – and an opportunity to show what I can still do that I must take.

I imagine I will be opening the batting, along with Ravi Bopara who opens for England in 50-over international cricket, and of course I am extremely excited about the prospect of being involved.

The World Twenty20 is going to be a fascinating event, especially with the advances we have seen in strategy and technique since Twenty20 cricket came on to the scene, and from England's perspective it is a chance – on home soil – to surprise a few people.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the tournament is that a lot of the guys in the England squad have now got a lot of Twenty20 experience. We have been playing it regularly since the Twenty20 Cup was launched here in 2003, and – perhaps more to the point – we also have far more experience of how to play it in English conditions in June.

I think there will be a lot of ideas, tactical and strategic, being put forward from those inside the England dressing room, and I'd like to think that I would be one of those able to contribute. When I first played for England, some of those I played with I had only previously seen on the television – now I'm one of the elder statesmen.

Andy Flower has already spoken to me a couple of times, and I imagine he has done the same to the other guys coming into the squad from outside of the ODI group, and I am looking forward to getting together with the rest of the England players ahead of the opening group game against Holland on Friday.

Andrew Flintoff will not be fit enough to play in the tournament, but England will still put a very competitive team out into the field. And, in Twenty20, anything can happen.

OPPORTUNITY: Rob Key has been called up for England's squad for the upcoming ICC World Twenty20 tournament

Our success at Kent in the Twenty20 format in 2007 and 2008 will stand me in good stead, hopefully, and other players like Bopara, James Foster, Graham Napier, Dimitri Mascarenhas and Owais Shah have also played a lot of Twenty20 cricket at county level and have had consistent individual success at it.

Mascarenhas, Kevin Pietersen, Shah, Napier and Paul Collingwood also spent time at the Indian Premier League during the past couple of months – whether or not they actually got on to the field very much – and so will have learned much about how most of the world's best players approach a game which is constantly evolving.

One of the areas in which I think England will trouble opposing teams will be with the new ball.

Both Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad have shown in the recent Tests and ODIs against the West Indies just how much they have improved in the past 12 months or so.

Going out to India and the Caribbean last winter, and having to bowl lots of overs on really flat and slow pitches, has had a big, positive effect on their careers.

They have been forced to work hard for their successes, and to develop their games in an effort to survive in those batsman-friendly conditions, and that has been to their and England's benefit.

From a personal point of view, I am far happier with my batting form than I was a month or so ago. I had a tough start to the season, with a few low scores against the new ball that can happen to any opener, but in the past week or so I have begun to feel much better.

I am hitting the ball well and, even if that has not translated too much into numbers of runs during the past fortnight, I am the sort of player who knows when he is in good order. When I am striking it well, I know from experience that runs will come.

• ***Rob Key, the Kent captain and England batsman, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists.***

Coach's future in the balance

KENT'S cricket committee met before Friday's Twenty20 clash with the Middlesex Panthers to discuss the future of bowling coach, Geoff Arnold.

The former England seam bowler has been working with Kent after having been released by Surrey in the winter.

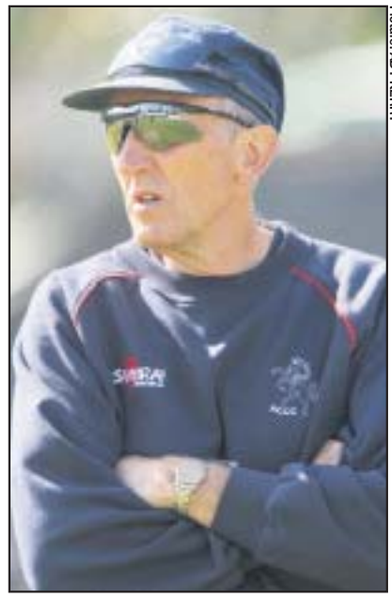
The 64-year-old has been used in a consultancy capacity and was a huge help to coach Simon Willis while director of cricket, Graham Ford, was stuck in South Africa with visa problems.

Now Ford has returned to the county, the club will discuss whether to keep him on for the rest of the summer or not.

Ford said he was hopeful of retaining Arnold, who has done well with the county's bowling attack.

"What I have seen of him, he has been fantastic," Ford said. "His record speaks for itself and it's a great opportunity for me to work alongside him and learn from him."

Ford also confirmed that fast bowler Amjad Khan has begun bowling and is able to run freely, but warned he is still some way off a return to county cricket.



Picture: ADY KERRY

DECISION: Geoff Arnold wants a full-time bowling coaching contract at Kent

FOOTBALL
Mark Stimson to boost Gills squad ahead of League One season **77**

CRICKET
Rob Key puts Kent captaincy aside as England calls **79**

JUST THE TICKET

PGA Tour bids to bring golf to the masses by offering free entry to the European Open

PACKED GALLERIES: Thousands watched some of the world's top golfers for free at the European Open at the London Club in Ash, which began on Thursday

Picture: ADY KERRY

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

THE European Open comes to a close today at the London Golf Club with organisers hoping a groundbreaking free ticket scheme has helped change perceptions of the sport.

For the first time in Europe – and only the second time in European Tour history – tickets for all four days of the tournament, held near Ash, were free to people applying online. Each household was eligible to apply for four tickets, worth £100.

The scheme attracted 82,000 applications, reflecting the appetite for top-level golf in Kent and dwarfing the Tour's 50,000 target.

Championship director Jamie Birkmyre told Kent on Sunday he was delighted with the response, which built on the success of last year's event, when free tickets were available on the Thursday.

He said: "We decided to extend it a bit to try and make it a festival of golf for Kent and the South East, which seems to have worked very well. It's unbelievable really, and with this weather I think a lot of them will come, so we're very pleased indeed.

"I think everybody should feel good about taking advantage of it. I'm sure there are a whole bunch of people who've never been to a golf tournament before who are going to realise this is a pretty good way of spending the day."

The London Golf Club is one of the main beneficiaries of the initiative, with healthy galleries on the Heritage Course for all four days.

Heath Harvey, the club's general manager, admits there can still be a misconception about the sport that portrays it as the preserve of the wealthy.

Perception

He is optimistic the free ticket programme and the club's work with the Kent Golf Partnership, which introduces the game in local schools, will help challenge the long-standing opinions.

He said: "Golf is not an elitist sport. There are as many taxi drivers as there are chief executives playing golf these days. We've worked really hard to break down that perception of exclusivity and say we are here for the local community. A free gate and the work in the schools is getting the message through hopefully."

There are signs the free ticket idea is catching on. It has been extended to the first two days of the BMW International Open at Munich next month and for the whole of the season-ending Dubai World Championships in November.

But the message from the Tour is to make the most of it while it lasts. The London Club was chosen for the scheme due to its location in the South East and the lack of golf events elsewhere in the region, making it a largely untapped resource for the Tour.

Rather than being a trailblazer for tournaments in the future, Birkmyre cannot see the London Club model becoming the norm throughout the calendar.

He said: "This is a world class sporting event and it's an entertainment product.

"You are not going to get in for free at the cinema or the football, but if you can encourage people to come along and understand what a professional golf tournament is like, there should still be a value [to the ticket].

"I can't see European Tour events becoming totally free because gate money is an important source of income and people would become a bit blasé about the quality of the entertainment, which is absolutely out of the top drawer."

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